

# THRIVE

## How to Thrive By Giving Up Control

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – July 30, 2017

1. Open in prayer:

“Father, teach us to trust You with every single detail of our lives. Your care and concern for us is to never be questioned because of the cross and Your redemption found in Your precious Son, the Lord Jesus. Holy Spirit, fill us with trust. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

2. Pastor Derwin opened the sermon by saying, “The higher your desire for control, the higher your anxiety and manipulation will be.” How have you seen this play out in your life?

3. You can trust God because He is...

a. Love, and His love towards you is good, merciful, and faithful. Read 1 John 4:16.

- “God’s mercy is God’s goodness confronting human suffering and guilt. God deals in justice when His mercy is despised. God’s mercy never violates His justice, and God’s justice never overpowers His mercy. We place ourselves in jeopardy when we decide God’s offering of mercy is not to our liking.” A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

- God is faithful to us by blessing us with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Eph. 1:3) to be conformed into the image of Christ, for the glory and mission of Christ.

b. Sovereign, which means He rules and controls His creation through His Eternality, Omniscience, Omnipresence and Omnipotence. Read Psalm 115:3.

- “God sovereignly decreed that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil. When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it, inasmuch as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make but that he should be free to make it. If in His absolute freedom God has willed to give man limited freedom, who is there to stay His hand or say, ‘What doest thou?’ Man’s will is free because God is sovereign. A God less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so.” A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

- Eternality means that God exists without beginning or end. Because God is outside of time, the past, present, and future are an ‘eternal now’ to God. God sees all events in one eternal glance.

- Read Exodus 3:14-15 and Psalm 90:2 CSB

- God’s name (I AM) speaks of His eternity. God is the self-existent, eternal mighty one.

- Omniscience means God knows all things in the past, present, and future that are possible and actual. He cannot learn because He has perfect knowledge of all things. Read Psalm 147:4-5 CSB.

- Omnipresence means God is not limited or confined to a spatial location. He’s fully present everywhere in His creation. Read Psalm 139:7-10 CSB.

- Omnipotence means God is unlimited in His power to accomplish His will. He is all-powerful. Read Revelation 1:8 CSB.

4. Considering God's attributes, how does this help you to give up trying to control?

5. Joseph: A case study in giving up control and trusting God.

Note: God's redemptive plan is always played out in the life of people. God made a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) and He was faithful to accomplish His plan creating the nation of Israel that led to the Savior of the world coming to earth.

- Read Genesis 37:23-24, 37:28, 39:2-5; Genesis 39:6-9, 39:21, 41:55-57; 42:1-2; 45:2-8, 14-15
- How do you see the attributes of God played out in Joseph's life?

6. **Soul-tattoo:** Trust God by giving up control

### **Joseph: A Typology of Jesus**

<b>Joseph</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
Joseph was loved by his father - Genesis 37:3	God said about Jesus "this is My beloved Son" - Matthew 3:17
Joseph's brothers did not believe him and hated him - Genesis 37:4-5	The Jews did not believe in Christ - John 7:5 and they hated Him - John 15:24
Joseph's brothers rejected his right to rule - Genesis 37:8	The Jewish leaders said, "we will not have this man to rule over us" - Luke 19:14
Joseph's brothers conspired against him - Genesis 37:23	They took counsel against Jesus - Matthew 27:1
They stripped Joseph of his garments - Genesis 37:23	They stripped Jesus - Matthew 27:28
Joseph was sold for silver - Genesis 37:28	Jesus was sold for silver - Matthew 26:15
Everything Joseph put his hand to prospered - Genesis 39:3	"... And the pleasure of the Lord prospered in His hand" - Isaiah 53:10
All things were laid into Joseph's trust - Genesis 39:4-8	God hath given all things into His hand - John 3:35
Joseph's own brothers did not recognize him.	The Jews did not recognize their Messiah
Joseph was tempted and did not sin - Genesis 39:9	Jesus was tempted in all things yet was without sin - Hebrews 4:15
Joseph was bound - Genesis 39:30	Jesus was bound - Matthew 27:2
Joseph was condemned with two criminals - Genesis 40:2, 3	Jesus was crucified with two criminals - Luke 23:32
One criminal was given life and the other was condemned - Genesis 40:21-22	Jesus told one of the criminals "Today you shall be with Me in paradise" - Luke 23:43
Joseph was trustworthy and wise - Genesis 41:39	God said about Jesus "this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" - Mark 1:11
Joseph's brothers bowed their knee to him - Genesis 41:43	"At the name of Jesus every knee will bow" - Philippians 2:10
Joseph was 30 years old - Genesis 41:46	Jesus was "about 30 years old" - Luke 3:25
God planned the suffering of Joseph in advance to save many - Genesis 50:21	"God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall be saved" - John 3:16
Joseph was made ruler over all of Egypt - Genesis 41:42-44	Jesus said, "all power has been given unto Me" - Matthew 28:18
Joseph married a foreign bride who shared his glory - Genesis 41:45	Believers in Christ are "joint heirs" with Him in His glory - Romans 8:17

Joseph was cast into a pit and then later delivered out of it - Genesis 37:24,28	When Jesus died He descended into the lower parts of the earth, and later ascended into heaven - Ephesians 4:9
Joseph was imprisoned based on false charges - Genesis 39:19, 20	During the trial of Jesus, false witnesses were brought in to testify against Him - Mark 14:56
Joseph's brothers later repented for what they did to him - Genesis 42:7	"and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn" - Zechariah 12:10

<http://www.bible-history.com/old-testament/types-joseph.html> (7/27/17)

Close in prayer.

Additional Resource:

o *The Knowledge of the Holy* by A.W. Tozer