

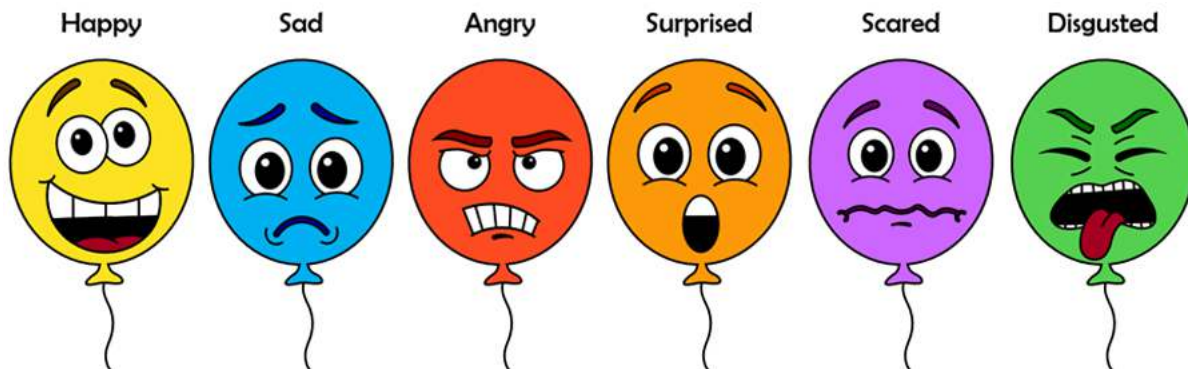
JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL

DAVE D'ANGELO

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

When things are out of control the only thing we can control is how we respond to those things.



Control is when we are afraid those emotions will be too much or not enough for us. Control is a defense mechanism, a natural response. Instead, we need to trust God for the supernatural.

Proverbs 3:5-10

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
Be not wise in your own eyes;*

*fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.
It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.
Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.*

→ **Who** are you trying to control?

→ **What** are you trying to control?

Who or what we seek to control reveals where we are trusting God the least.

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

- It's natural to control especially when we are hurt. In Joseph, we see the supernatural at work.
- Joseph a man "in whom is the spirit of God" (**Genesis 41:37-39**)
- Joseph names his sons (**Genesis 41:50-52**)
 - › Joseph, instead of choosing control, chose forgiveness.
 - › Manasseh: *forgiveness, healing, removed bitterness*

We are made complete when we step into a **trusting relationship with the Lord** instead of control.

Ephesians 4:32

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.*

The joy of forgiveness is the ability to trust again. It mends our hearts.

→ **Joseph chose gratitude to God over control.**

- Rather than control, Joseph trusts that it's God who makes us fruitful, not us.

→ **When we express gratitude to God we find joy.**

- Ephraim: *God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction*
- Ephraim was a walking reminder that it is God who makes paths straight.

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

The joy of gratitude is rest.

Jesus in the garden: **the nevertheless prayer.**

→ **Jesus chose surrender over control.**

- If Jesus surrendered two times, how many times do I need to surrender?

Mark 14:39

And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

There's no such thing as partial surrender.

Proverbs 23:26

*My son, give me your heart,
and let your eyes observe my ways.*

The joy of surrender is seeing through an eternal lens.

Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.