

## Control Freaks

**My heart is not proud, O LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore. (Psalm 131:1-3)**

Did you ever notice how much we human beings are control freaks? We like to be in control of every aspect of our lives. We decide what time we get out of and go to bed. We decide what our meals will be. We decide what products we will use—*Dial* or *Irish Spring*. We decide what cars we will drive, what clothes we will wear, what route we will take to work, what destinations we will vacation at and on and on and on. Because we control almost every aspect of our lives, we get the false impression that we are in control.

But then something happens that shocks us back into reality. Something neither we, nor anybody on earth, can control at this time—a pandemic. Now we are no longer in control. We can't decide who contracts the disease and who doesn't. We can't control how long the virus hangs in the air or clings to surfaces or where this happens. We can't control the group size of people that we will hang out with. We can't control whether we can go into work or not. We can't control the effects this all has on the stock market, our savings, and our retirement plans. We can't control how this will affect the future.

But guess what, we don't need to. We can humbly approach life in the cool, calm, and collected manner the psalmist reflects. We don't need to be haughty and arrogant and try to control the things our God is already in control of. We don't need to concern ourselves with great matters that are too wonderful for us to figure out. All we need to know is that our gracious God is taking care of business. Then our souls will truly be stilled and quieted like a sleeping baby who has just been nursed and is lying like a ragdoll in her mother's arms without a care in the world.

That's what happens when we put our hope in the LORD both now and forevermore. Hope looks forward, both to the days the LORD will continue to shower with blessings on this earth, to the days we will enjoy when this is all over, and beyond. Hope looks to the eternal days that are awaiting us in heaven, days that have been reserved for us through Christ's perfect life and innocent death on the cross. Eternal days that have been guaranteed for us through his glorious resurrection from the dead. Eternal days during which there will be no worries, cares, or concerns. He has already conquered death for us. If this is so, we can be sure that he is in control of this pandemic. He has a plan. He knows how long this will last. He knows how this will be a blessing for his church. He knows how this works into his plan of salvation for the people of his world.

Therefore, my dear Christian family, you can confess along with the psalmist, "I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me."