

Ways We Try to Retain Control
When We Should Really Give It All to the Lord!

- **Emotional Manipulation** (Stress /withdrawal/anger) in our:
 - love life - romantic relationships
 - family life - if people don't make me happy I'll _____
 - family timing - it's taking too long to have a family! So, I try to control God

- **Stealing from others:**

(Theft is *taking something that doesn't belong to me, now, or possibly ever*):

- their time
- their attention
- their affection (physical / emotional)
- their energy; through unreasonable demands or manipulation

- We control our:

- **Work life:**

- by obsessing over our work (as if it is all that matters)
 - by neglecting our work (as if it doesn't matter)
 - demanding attention from coworkers
 - demanding fair treatment (instead of trusting God's timing)
 - demanding recognition (instead of setting personal limits and being willing to move on where necessary)

- **Spiritual life:**

- by only allowing God to move my heart in personally pre-approved ways and directions
 - by only allowing God to speak through personally pre-approved ways and directions
 - by limiting my "God time" to certain hours of the day or week
 - by refusing to read or take seriously the hard passages of Scripture
 - by refusing to read the Scriptures
 - by not praying/obeying until God _____
 - by delaying our action when we know what to do
 - by delaying our attention when we know what is right

