**Ten Lies Satan Loves To Tell (5)**

Weekly Devotion + 2.19.2025

**LIE 4: LIFE WILL BE BETTER IF YOU SEIZE MORE CONTROL**

Once again, we find ourselves back in the Garden of Eden. The devil’s temptation directed at Eve invited her to seize more control for herself. God had given both Adam and Eve access to every tree in the garden except for one. Thus, when the devil tempts Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, he’s implying that her life would be better if she seizes control and does what God said was forbidden.

It looks like this fourth lie is actually true. We think that, if we had more control, things would go the way we want them to. We think that life would be easier if we were in charge of what happens. But I can tell you from experience that, as nice as it sounds, life isn’t better when we try to take more control. Instead, life can be much harder and more frustrating!

Any parent can see how seizing more control makes life more miserable rather than better. You try to get your kids to eat certain foods, sanitize their hands when they’re out in public, and pick up their clothes. But, by doing these things, your job of parenting doesn’t become easier – instead, it becomes terribly frustrating and more difficult! The same is true in other relationships. Seizing more control in a marriage doesn’t generally make the marriage better or more enjoyable; instead, it leads your spouse to resent you and rightly label you as ‘controlling.’

Sometimes we try to control things that are simply out of our control. We cling to unrealistic expectations of ourselves and other people, and the result is anger and frustration. What we need to do in these situations isn’t seize more control; rather, what needs to be done is to let go and relinquish some of that control. What happens when we surrender control (especially over those things that are outside of our control) is that life becomes less stressful and more manageable. Our relationships become more enjoyable. All the while, we trust all things into God’s hands, especially the things that we have no control over!

The Scriptural admonition for us is to “submit [ourselves] to God,” “resist the devil,” and “draw near to God” (James 4:7-8). We live faithfully in the vocations into which God has placed us, and we exercise the authority which is appropriate in those vocations. Parents discipline children and teach them the Christian faith, husbands sacrifice for their wives, employers treat their employees fairly, and so forth. And as we do these things, we know that all power and authority have been given to Christ. We let Him handle the things which are out of our control and we know that, whatever happens, He’ll use all things for His good purposes!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to trust You when we feel the need to take more control. All things are under Your care and we know that’s the best place they can be. Amen.