

Giving Up ControlJeremiah 18:1-6

Giving up control may be difficult for us. When we get ready for God to remove our shortcomings, we still may want to control how he does it. We are so used to calling the shots that we'll ask for God's help as long as he does it on our terms. We may demand that the changes happen on our timetable or in the order we feel ready to give them up.

God doesn't work that way. That is why humility is such an important part of this step. God told Jeremiah to go to the potter's shop to learn a lesson. Jeremiah said, "I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over. Then the LORD gave me this message: . 'Can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand" (Jeremiah 18:3-6). God told Isaiah, "What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot ever argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, 'Stop, you're doing it wrong!' Does the pot exclaim, 'How clumsy can you be?'" (Isaiah 45:9).

When we put our life in God's hands, he will reshape us as he sees fit. It is our humility that allows us to accept the fact that he is the Creator. Our new life may be similar to the one we left behind or entirely different. God is the master craftsman. Whatever he does, we can trust that he will recreate our life beautifully, once we get out of his way!

God’s Laws Help17:19-27

We often lose sight of what God intended by the laws he gave us. The people of Judah had forsaken the Sabbath day, not realizing that the day had been set aside for their benefit. God's laws were not given to inconvenience us but to help us be all that God intends us to be. He loves us, and his laws were given because of his love. That is why following God's program is the only way to experience fulfillment and freedom in this life.

God’s Laws are Simple18:11-17

God gave the people of Judah the warnings they needed to avoid judgment, but they would not repent and turn from their idols. They preferred their own sinful ways to God's ways. God's ways are simple: his paths are straight; his burden is light. But we, at times, become stubborn, proud, and arrogant, choosing to do things our own way — a way that leads ultimately to despair and pain.

God’s Laws Require Change18:12-15

The people of Judah were aware of their sins and even admitted them openly, yet they stubbornly refused to change. The only recourse left to God was the destruction of Israel and the exile of his people. His love led him to punish them in hope that they would finally respond with repentance. We are most hopeless when we know our sins and admit them to others yet remain on the path toward destruction. **Admission without change is meaningless.** The more we know about ourselves, the greater our responsibility to actually change what we know needs changing.



Contributions

Note: Many choose to contribute monthly, semi-annually, or annually

	6/4	6/11	6/18	6/25	7/02
General	\$2,396	\$1,512	\$1,229	\$1,709	\$2,682
Missions	\$50	\$360	\$120	\$750	\$95
Youth			\$500	\$1,000	

insights ABOUT DENIAL AND HYPOCRISY

In Jeremiah 3:9-10 we find that the people of Israel were in denial and took their sins lightly. We often do the same thing, perhaps because the consequences of our sins don't always come immediately. If nothing bad happens to us for a while, we are lulled into thinking we can get away with our destructive behavior. If the consequences struck instantly, we might take our actions more seriously. We must realize that God does not take our sins lightly. The consequences for sinful behavior will inevitably come sooner or later.

Jeremiah's audience was in denial. In Jeremiah 5:11-13 the prophet warned them that their behavior would lead to terrible consequences, but they refused to listen. We often do the same thing. When confronted with our sinful behavior, we foolishly defend or rationalize our actions. We even project our own destruction onto others. The next time someone confronts us about sin, we would be wise to listen; that person may be right. We may need to take inventory of our lives and explore our need for renewal and recovery.

In Jeremiah 16:16-17:13 it is clear that our actions may fool others, but we can never fool God. Judgment came to Judah not simply because the actions of the people were grievous, but also because their hearts were unrepentant. God searches our innermost parts and knows our hearts. He cares about who we are, not just about what we do. Thus change does not begin with heroic acts on our part. It begins as we admit that we are powerless and unable to do anything on our own and turn to God with humble and repentant hearts.

insights INTO THE PROCESS OF RECOVERY

In marriage there is a honeymoon period when we are eager to please our new spouse. In Jeremiah 2:2-3 God remembered the time when Israel was his eager bride, happy to be faithful to him. We also have a honeymoon period in recovery when we are eager to please God and focus on him. However, disillusionment can set in when the honeymoon is over. Taking time daily to be renewed by God's love and power through prayer and Bible study, we can avoid disillusionment and relapse. Temptations will lose their power over us as we surrender our lives to God's control each day.

In Jeremiah 9:4-6 the prophet warned God's people about the power of others to lead them away from God. When our hearts are focused on God, it won't matter what others do to us or think of us. Some people may be threatened by our recovery; others may stand to lose something. Such people may do everything pl they can to drag us down with slanderous lies. Even when this happens, we need to remain obedient to the truth and steadfast in our relationship with God. As we trust in him, he will protect us.

CALENDAR

Sunday	10:00 am	Bible Study	At the building and live stream
Sunday	11:00 am.....	Worship	At the building and live stream
Sunday	4:00 pm	Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus	At Pam & Rob's
Wednesday	10:30 am.....	Senior Breakfast.....	At Perkins Restaurant
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Bible Study	At the building
Saturday	7:00 pm	Teen Group	At the building

Jul 15 th	Senior Breakfast – 10:30 at the building (3 rd Saturday each month.)
Aug 6 th	Potluck & Area Singing with the Pocatello Church of Christ. August 6th is potluck Sunday. The main meal is provided, please bring side dishes. After the potluck at 1:30 we will enjoy our combined singing with Pocatello.
Sep 15-17 th	Idaho Falls Youth Rally. The link to the registration page is on our website.
Dec 8-10 th	Winter Rendezvous in Cody Wyoming. The link to the registration page is on our website.

PRAYERS

- For Nathan, working to raise monies for his missionary year that starts this September.
- For Brian Felushko, scheduled for back surgery on July 13th.
- For Briley, coping with Marfans syndrome.
- For Bobbie Knight. Bobbie Knight, IDOC # 113912, PWCC - 2 C, 1451 Fore Rd, Pocatello 83204.
- For Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- For Ryan Burns, Jordan Allbritten, and Thomas Mullinaux, serving in the armed forces.
- For our widows: Myrna, Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, & Carolyn.

LEADERSHIP

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The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

Welcome!

We’re a bible-based congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls to praise and worship the one God and to support and encourage each other. All are welcome! Please join us in our worship services and classes.



Meditation for Today

Expect miracles of change in people's lives. Do not be held back by unbelief. People can be changed and they are often ready and waiting to be changed. Never believe that human nature cannot be changed. We see changed people every day. Do you have the faith to make those changes possible? Modern miracles happen every day in the lives of people. All miracles are in the realm of personalities. Human nature can be changed and is always being changed. But we must have enough faith so that we can be channels for God's strength into the lives of others.

I pray that I may have the faith to expect miracles. I pray that I may be used by God to help change the lives of others.

Online Bulletin is available at our website <https://ifcocminister.wixsite.com/mysite>