

CONFESSION FOR CONTROLLING OTHERS

Father, I have sinned by trying to control other people. I have tried to play God because I did not trust you. I confess that controlling others is sinful and evil. It is witchcraft and manipulation. Even you do not control people, but you give us all the choice of what we want to do with our lives. You gave each of us a will to choose our own course. This is what makes us fully human. I have especially tried to control _____ . I take my hands off them and place them in your hands. I hold the cross and the blood of Jesus between me and all the people I have exercised control over. Work in my heart. Help me to own my “stuff.” Help me to distinguish between my “stuff” and other people’s “stuff.” Give me a fresh revelation of your love so that fear in my heart can be overcome. Give me a fresh revelation of your power and might so that pride in my heart can be overcome. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

HOW DOES CONTROL TAKE ROOT?

The most common cause of the controlling personality is **fear and insecurity**. Insecurity is the root of the spirit of control. It is the deepest root cause of all problems of fear, jealousy, anger, resentment and control.

Those plagued with insecurity have a great sense of rejection and are seeking attention and approval. The complexity of insecurity and inferiority comes to a head in the desire to control. Finding the feelings of inferiority intolerable (often in one who feels his physical body doesn’t measure up), the mentality flip-flops into a sense of superiority and pride. This twisted pride runs even deeper than the typical ego of an athletic jock. This person, who once felt so deeply inferior ... now, in a perverted sense, feels superior to everyone. He/she is now a know-it-all and is threatened by anyone who dares to disagree, seeing them as the enemy. He/she has an answer to everything and is characteristically extremely opinionated. He/she is quick to express his/her opinion as the final authority. No input needed.

The power of control gives insecure people a feeling of self-worth and importance. It gives validity to their existence. The pattern begins at a young age and develops into a lifestyle. **THAT IS WHY IT IS SO RARE TO SEE THOSE WITH A CONTROLLING SPIRIT TOTALLY DELIVERED. Controlling has become such a part of their nature that it literally becomes their personality.**

The flesh is deadly. It has no mercy. Nothing can hurt us like the flesh can. That is why God warns us not to seek the praise of people and not to put confidence in the flesh of people (John 12:43, Philippians 3:3, Psalm 118:8, Proverbs 29:25). If we brag about ourselves, we are in the flesh. But we are equally in the flesh if we belittle ourselves. We are not to do either. Our identity is in Him. We live to exalt Him!

Flesh is a harder problem to deal with than the devil. Rebellion says, "I won't do it!" Stubbornness says, "I'll do it my way!" Self-centeredness says, "I want what I want, when I want it." IT IS ALL FLESH!

SPIRITS TO DEAL WITH

- Insecurity – Root of Spirit of Control, Fear, Jealousy, Anger, Resentment
- Pride, Twisted Pride
- Low Self-Esteem
- Rejection
- Inferiority
- Superiority/Haughtiness