

Rivals

The Rival of Control

What do I have to do to get what I want?

Discussion Questions

1. What would you do when you were a kid to get what you wanted?
 2. Would you consider yourself to be a person that likes to be in control of things? How so?
 3. Is there a situation in your life right now where you feel the need to be in control? What fear would you have if you were not in control of that situation?
 4. There can be times when manipulation drives our need to control, even in prayer. Can you think of a time when you tried to manipulate God to get what you want? Please share and discuss.
 5. In the Book of Genesis, Leah learns to have a heart that trusts God and praises Him without conditions, no matter what the outcome. Does your heart look like Leah's heart? Why or why not?
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God in Real Life

We all long to have the kind of trust that is exercised through praise and lived in surrender. Spend some time praying through one of the prayers on the following page, with a heart that reflects that kind of trust.

To the Heart

Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared." Mark 10: 39-40

A Prayer for the First Thing in the Morning

Good morning, Lord!

Great is Your faithfulness and Your steadfast love! Your mercies are made new every morning.

I don't know what is going to happen today, but You do. So I give this day to You.

Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and energize me for Your work. Awaken me to the wonder of Your salvation, and quicken my spirit to Your presence in my life.

This day is Yours. My body is Yours. My mind is Yours.

Everything I am is Yours.

You will be faithful to complete the good work You've started, and as I step out into my day, I declare Your sovereignty over every area of my life. I entrust myself to You and ask that You use me however You see fit

May You be pleased with me today.

Amen.

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do. I thank you; I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to Gove myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for your are my Father.

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my whole will. All that I am and all that I posses, You have given me: I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen.
