

Can I Trust God's Priorities?

3rd Step - Lesson 3

One of the things that get in the way of Third Step work is a fear of God's priorities. Usually the thought goes something like this: "If God is in charge of my life I'm afraid it will be all religion, all the time. No fun, no wild times, no sex, just church and stuff. I'll probably end up being a missionary in some primitive place that's full of diseases or something."

The Bible does talk about God having different priorities than we have: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts'" (Isaiah 55:8-9). But that part of the Bible is actually talking about how God's way of thinking is all about grace and unconditional love; what we deserve is not important to him. That's how God's priorities are different.

So what are some things that are important to you that you're afraid to turn over to God, because you're afraid he doesn't think they matter? One example: Reputation.

Someone who really values his reputation might be afraid that God will say, "That's not important, you shouldn't care about that." But look at some things the Bible says about what God can do for a person's reputation:

- Exodus 11:3—The LORD made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.
- Luke 2:52— And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.
- Deuteronomy 2:25—"This very day I will begin to put the terror and fear of you on all the nations under heaven. They will hear reports of you and will tremble and be in anguish because of you."

God is clearly saying, "Your reputation can be a very important thing. Why don't you let me be in charge of it?"

Think of some other things that people might be afraid to turn over to God:

- Your love life
- Your finances
- What you do for fun
- Your resentments
- What else?

What are some Bible promises you know about what will happen when you turn things over to God?

What happens when you try to stay in charge of things instead of turning them over to God?

What happens when you turn things over to God?