

## **Please stop saying “God is in control”**

***You are making our God look bad!***

I’ve had it with all of these “pet” phrases being tossed around today in a vain attempt to calm rattled people filled with anxieties. People are waking up and finding themselves in the very egregious and depressing situation that our country’s politics and pandemic all coming down on top of our daily problems which together are crushing our spirits. But you may unknowingly be painting a very negative picture of our God when you say, “God is still on His throne.” Or “God is in charge.” You are indirectly blaming God for all that is going bad or is wrong with our world today.

Did you not hear that here in Chicago there were 32 shootings this past weekend with five of them ending in death? And to say in the same breath that “God is in Control,” casts disparagement on God. Any thinking person is asking themselves, “wait a second, if God is in control, how does He let all this bad stuff happen?”

God purposely created mankind with free volition, the right to self-govern and make our own decisions. Yes, God is on His throne and will always be there, but to imply, “not to worry God is in total control.” is very bad theology. Although God has the power to stop or start any and every human behavior, does not mean He will. God will not bully himself into taking over our decisions and behavior. He will love us to a better way of thinking and behaving, but he will not turn us into marching robots. You think it’s hard for us to watch “bad” things happen. Can you begin to imagine how hard it is for Him who loves us more than we even love ourselves?

He created a perfect world and turned it over to us, and we mankind made a total repulsive mess of things. He chose to intervene once and ordered a flood. But at the end of the flood which purged of all earthly evil, He put a rainbow in the sky and promised never again. And since that day the world has continued in its downward spiral with brief but not lasting periods of revival followed by even more immoral lust, hatred, wars, and street gang violence. And on and on. And it will

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continue until Jesus breaks through the clouds with the sound of the trumpet and the shout of an archangel.

But for now, and until Christ returns, God is on the throne, but He is **NOT** in control. His noninvolvement reflects our passivity towards God and the things and people for whom He deeply cares. It does **not** reflect any apathy nor indifference on God's part!

Please allow me to explain. Here are two binding theological certainties that are at play in today's evil mess that is stalking the very world He created and hounding the very people whom He loves. These are all pertinent and relevant certainties in which each of us are now playing a vital role.

### **Theological Certainty # 1: God stays on His throne until we get off our butts.**

The scripture makes is very clear as to how, when, and why God fights for us. As an example:

*"For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory." Deut. 20:4*

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Josh. 1:9*

Time after time, God promises his people that victory will be theirs, but they still had to go into battle. Note the words in the scripture above that I took the liberty to underline.

God will always and happily join us in our obedient faith and fight the good fight for us, BUT it is always with us. Once we understand this theological principle, it is plain to see that a reason our world is in such a miserable mess is because we are guilty of a dereliction of our civil and moral duty and guilty of a sin of omission by our continued and glaring absence on the field of battle.

Enough said? You can take it from there.

### **Theological Certainty # 2: God stays on his throne until we get on our knees**

The scripture also makes it very clear as to what makes God get off His throne and get intricately involved in our personal affairs in our behalf and to his glory.

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Check out His promises in just two sample verses:

*"You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."* James 4 2,3

*"Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."* Mark 11:24

Get the picture? God is leaning forward on His throne looking at us breathlessly wondering if and when we are ever going to get down on our repentant knees and ask Him to get involved and do that which we are unable to do for ourselves. He is not on His throne staring out into the blue yonder, he is on His throne eying each one of us, begging us to invite Him into our life's messes. His heart aches to be closely involved in our lives every minute of every day. When we hurt, He hurts more, when we are filled with fear, He wants to love it away.

Enough said? You can take it from there.

So please, enough of saying untrue and misleading things like, "don't worry, God is in control or, God is still in on His Throne." The next time you hear someone say these simplistic kinds of statements, do our world a favor and give him/her this short theological correcting white paper.

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