

The Faith Script

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I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5(NIV)

[Prayer Wall](#)

Trust in me or Trust in God?

I have spent the more than 7 decades of my life acting like I am in charge of my life and everything that revolves around it. I have always desired to be the “one in charge” and the one who makes the “final decision” in any particular situation. The natural extension of this concept is that I acted as though I was/am self-sufficient and really didn’t need any outside influence to mess up MY actions or progress toward MY goals. Of course my spouse recognized these questionable attributes early in our 47 year marriage and has worked constantly to “re-direct” my focus (without too much success most of the time). This desire to “be in charge” does not limit itself to my secular life either. I have been a Christian my entire life and I dearly love our savior Jesus Christ, but I approach Christian issues on the “intellectual” side most of the time. I can site statistics and quote scripture to prove how correct I am about Biblical questions, but sometimes have failed to fully understand what Christ has commanded- that is-“ to love Jesus” and to “love one-another” as He loves me.

So why do I “confess” this self-absorbed, independent minded focus? A few weeks ago, I had a total knee replacement and spent a few days in the hospital. This was the first time in more than 65 years that I had been hospitalized for surgery. From the time I was given the anesthetic and was sedated for the surgery, I became completely dependent on others for nearly everything. This dependence has continued (to a lesser degree) for several weeks as I recover the use of my knee. It has made me realize- perhaps for the first time- that I DO NEED to relinquish control more often to those who love me and especially to my Lord Jesus Christ. Like Paul in his famous soliloquies from Romans 7:14-25 about his struggle to give his sinful desires over to Jesus and to allow Jesus to be in charge, I am beginning to learn to give up my “independence” and work at becoming more “dependent” on Jesus. My convalescence has given me a little better sense of what it means to be dependent on both those around me and on Jesus. The good news is it is “never too late” to tell the devil NO and to put your trust in Jesus. Praise the Lord!

Eugene (Gene) Lutz, CPFI Member
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