



Kill the Control Freak | Doug Wekenman | 4.25-4.26
Weekly Study

S H A R E

Welcome, Red Rocks, to week 3 of , *“Free Me From Me.”* Over the past couple of years, Ryan has been developing this idea of what the “me-maze” looks like in our lives as Christians. The me-maze is a self-centered labyrinth that leads ever inward, making it difficult to see or care about anyone beyond ourselves. This series is all about how we break free from that cycle and put God back at the center of our lives. While the modern world tells us that life is all about us, Jesus offers a radically different invitation—one of loving and serving others.

In the final week of the series, Doug shared a message titled *“Kill the Control Freak.”* He took a deep dive into what surrender really looks like and how we can begin to let go of control. We live in a world that constantly pushes us to be in control—to sit in the driver’s seat and manage every detail of our lives. Because of that, letting go can feel uncomfortable, even scary.

But when we place Jesus at the center, life actually becomes simpler. Surrender isn’t about losing something—it’s about stepping into the way God designed us to live. We were never meant to carry the weight of controlling everything. That role belongs to God alone.

God didn’t create us to be in control of every outcome; He created us to be His sons and daughters. He invites us to trust Him with the things we cannot carry and to place them in His hands. When we choose to “free me from me” and surrender control, we step into the identity He has already given us. Instead of striving to hold everything together, we begin to live in the freedom of being fully known, fully loved, and fully led by Him.

- What are some areas of your life that are hardest to surrender and trust God with?**
- Think of a time you did truly surrender something to God, what did he do through that surrender?**

G R O W

Read John 1:35-42, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Jeremiah 1:5

There is so much change that happens the moment Jesus enters the picture. Two of John's disciples immediately leave to follow Him. One of them goes and finds his brother, bringing him to meet the Messiah. When Simon meets Jesus for the first time, Jesus looks at him and essentially says, *"I see who you are—but I'm calling you into who you will become."* In that moment, Jesus gives Simon a new identity and a new calling—Peter—and Peter begins the journey of learning how to walk in it.

Even after being called, Peter still struggled. He made mistakes, wrestled with fear, and didn't always get it right. Yet none of that disqualified him from being used by Jesus. In fact, Jesus still chose Peter to help build the church and lead after He left the earth.

This is the same invitation we receive. When we follow Jesus, we don't remain who we once were. We are fully seen and loved as we are, but we are also called into something new. When we choose to put Jesus at the center, He begins to transform us into who He has always known us to be.

In a single moment, Jesus changed everything about Peter's life—his identity, his purpose, and even his need to control the outcome. The same is true for us. Our identity is now rooted in being children of God—fully known, fully loved, and created in His image, with Jesus at the center.

- When you think about Peter's story, what stands out most to you about how Jesus sees and calls people?**
- Where in your life do you feel like Jesus is calling you into something new?**

As 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation—the old is gone, and the new is here. When we align our lives with Jesus, we are no longer defined by who we used to

be. God knows exactly who we are—He knew us before we were even formed—and He has set us apart with purpose.

- How have you seen Jesus change your identity or direction since you began following Him?**
- In what ways do you still try to control your own outcome instead of trusting Jesus with your future?**

MOVE

Read Matthew 16:24-25, Hebrews 4:12

When we choose to start our day in Scripture, we set the tone for everything that follows. We begin with a renewed passion and purpose—to pursue God above all else. The more we know God, the more we come to understand who we truly are. And the primary way we grow in knowing Him is by spending time in His Word.

- What has your personal experience with reading the Bible been like? What has helped or hindered consistency?**

Without the Bible, we wouldn't fully understand who Jesus is or why we follow Him. Scripture reveals God's character and shows us why He is worthy of our trust and surrender. As we intentionally spend time in it, we begin to see that surrender isn't a loss—it's an invitation to live the way we were created to live.

If we are going to take up our cross and follow Jesus, we can't have our hands full with things we are not willing to surrender. Surrender comes first. It begins with trusting that God knows better than we do, and from that place, we learn to honor and serve Him with our lives.

When we read the Word, it reads us. The Bible is not just information—it's revelation. Through it, we encounter the living God. It's as if, in the pages of Scripture, the Creator of the universe is looking back at us, speaking directly into our lives.

- What is something God has been showing you recently through Scripture?**

The reality is, as long as we are trying to control everything, we won't fully experience the life God has for us. Control keeps us from truly enjoying and trusting Him. It also makes it harder to hear what He is calling us into next. That's why Matthew 16:25 tells us that when we lose our life, we actually find it.

Surrender is the turning point—it's how we move from controlling to trusting. And it doesn't begin when God moves; it begins when we choose to let go and place Him back at the center of our lives.

- What is one step you can take to move from controlling to trusting God more?**
- What does it practically look like for you to “let go” and put God back at the center?**

P R A Y

Take a few minutes to pray for one another. Ask God to bring comfort as you learn to surrender control to Him. Pray that He would free you from yourself—from fear, pride, and the need to be at the center—and help you trust Him more fully. Ask that He would begin to move in your life in a fresh way, guiding you and shaping you into who He has created you to be.