

We must all be unconditionally surrendered to HIM! And He shall direct your paths.....In order to be led by God, and that is what this is all about after all, we first must Trust in the Lord with all your heart. This means that you shall end up in the right place at the right time, and more importantly, in the right spiritual condition. First, we must trust. Then He will lead. But why? Because God is working an eternal purpose, an eternal plan. He wants us to eventually be conformed to the image of His Son. A fundamental aspect of this is that He builds FAITH in us. God will direct our paths, true, but it doesn't mean we'll always know that He's the one doing it. Notice: Much of what God does He does in ways which aren't dramatic, miraculous, or even noticeably HIM. Yet He gives us exactly what He promises to give us, which is His will. Both for this life and the next.

"A Word Of Caution"

However, it is here that I will caution those of you who seem to **"require"** an **"experience"** when God moves in your life. As I just said, He often isn't dramatic, miraculous or full of sensationalism. Those are the things us humans want Him to be, but not really Who He is. Often it's subtly. Often it's a still small voice. Often it's a quiet calm. Often it's peace. Often it's a whisper. Often it is a extended hand or a word from a friend. Often it's a stillness in your spirit.

"There Will Be Difficult Times Ahead"

- God Uses Delays To Prepare Us.
- God Uses Delays To Test Us.
- God Uses Delays To Train Us.



There will be trials and tribulations. There will be seasons of testing and being sent through the fire. There will be seasons in the wilderness. But letting go of what God wants you to is the ultimate in receiving what He has planned for you! Surrender, believe and depend!

It does get easier but it has to start somewhere.... What are you holding onto that God is asking you to let go of? What are you holding onto that God has already done? If you know that you aren't letting go of something, this is a perfect time to do so! Relinquish it all to the Lord, emptying your hands and let the Lord fill them up with the things that He has in store for you! Don't delay what you feel in your spirit. It's better to let the Lord delay things for you than for you to control it and delay things in your own will and desire! Take this time to do some spiritual inventory of what you may need to let go of soon.... God knows exactly what He is doing. And He's waiting for you to surrender all!



"Let go and let God" is a phrase that cropped up some years ago and still enjoys some popularity today. Actually, the Bible never tells us to "let go and let God." In fact, there are so many commandments about what we are to do that it completely contradicts the way most people interpret **"Let go and let God."**

The popular idea of "letting go" is to adopt a sort of spiritual inactivity wherein we do nothing, say nothing, feel nothing, and simply live, allowing circumstances to roll over us however they may. The truth is that working at "letting go" is just as much as an effort-filled work as anything else we try to do for God and not nearly as easy to do as some things. The Christian life is a spiritual battle which the Bible exhorts us to prepare for and wage diligently. "Fight the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12); "Endure hardship . . . like a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:3). When we struggle, we assume the problem is that we are not letting go and letting God. The reality is that we struggle for a variety of reasons. One is that we have a weak faith. We just don't have enough confidence in God to rest in the reality of His nature and have the peace that comes with a strong faith in Him. For instance, when trials come or we experience illness, financial ruin, or the death of a loved one, do we really believe that "God works all things together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28)? If we don't know God intimately, it's very hard to trust that He is working all things together for good. But if we do know Him, if we have spent time digging into His Word and meditating on His works and His nature, we have faith in His plan and purposes, His love for us, His sovereign control over all circumstances in life, and we rest in the "peace that passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). But if we don't know Him, we will always struggle against life's hard circumstances.

"There Is A Positive Reason For Struggling"

There is a positive reason for struggling—it is good for us and is God's plan to grow and mature us into the people He wants us to be. Struggles are just one of the ways He strengthens us for the hard things life throws at us. Each one enables us to be stronger and better able to handle the next one. Trials are designed to show us and others that our faith is real. "Your faith will be like gold that has been tested in a fire. And these trials will prove that your faith is worth much more than gold that can be destroyed. They will show that you will be given praise and honor and glory when Jesus Christ returns" (1 Peter 1:7).

In Christ, we can face the trials of life with grace and good humor and complete faith that whatever God has for us is ok. This comes from years of walking with Him, trial upon trial, struggle upon struggle.

"We Have A Responsibility"



When it comes to our needs, Jesus said in The Sermon on the Mount, **"Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all"**

(Matthew 6:31–32). Instead, we should **"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"** (Matthew 6:33). So we should not obsess over our needs—God will take care of them. On the other hand, we do have the responsibility to work toward meeting our needs. As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, **"We would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat"** (2 Thessalonians 3:10). God will meet our needs. If He gives us the ability to work and "provide" for ourselves and our loved ones, that may be the way He has chosen to meet our needs, and we have an obligation to Him to exercise the abilities He has given us. But we should realize that He is meeting our needs, not ourselves.

"For We Are His Workmanship"



Isaiah 64:8

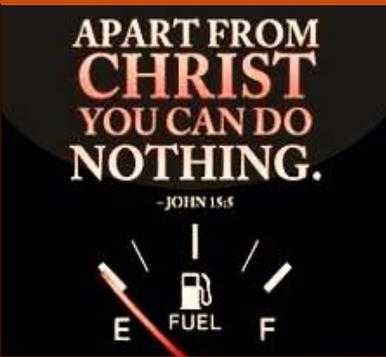
You Our Potter;
And All Of Us
Are The Work
Of Your Hand."

We also have the responsibility to do the work that He has provided for us. Ephesians 2:10 says, **"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."** We are expected by God to do the good works He has prepared beforehand for us. He will provide what we

need to do that. These **"Good Works"** include building up the body of Christ. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:11–12 that Jesus "Gave the Apostles, the Prophets, the Evangelists, the Shepherds and Teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." **First Corinthians 12:7 says, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."** So God gives people and gifts (manifestations of the Spirit) to the church.

So, if "Let go and let God" means that we don't try to control our situation or meet our needs in our own strength but surrender to God in His sovereignty, it is definitely biblical. It is also very hard to do. As a matter of fact, it is impossible to do without God's enabling us to do it. In God's power, we can surrender to Him.

"Jesus Is The Vine And We Are the Branches"



Jesus was clear that, apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). The truth being imparted here is that we can do nothing of eternal value apart from Christ and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. We can do lots of "stuff" and assume we're doing it for God, but if we are doing it on our own power, we get the credit, and there is little or no eternal value to it. The picture of the vine and the branches in John 15 is very

appropriate. Christ is the vine; we are the branches. Everything branches need to bring forth fruit comes from the vine—water, nutrients, the genetic material of life itself—while nothing is provided by the branches. The branches are simply something to hang the fruit on. The same is true of the Christian life. We are a conduit through which Christ displays His not our fruit.

"Are There Things We Do Need To Let Go Of?"

The answer to this question is yes! God wants us to let go of certain things and hold on to Him with all of our heart, mind and spirit There are many examples of these stories throughout the Bible as a good example to us in letting go of what God wants us to relinquish. It could be a bad attitude. A jealousy. Pride. Control. Hate. Regret. Guilt. The Past. Or a number of other things that would ultimately get in the way of trusting the Lord. **Acknowledge Him in all your ways and He shall direct your paths!** You must seek to do His will, rather than your own, even if you aren't quite clear about what His will is. And sometimes, His will isn't clear, but even that is for a reason. This reason is faith. You have to be willing to take the next steps in life not knowing where you're going but trusting the One that is leading the way! Even if that means that you can't discern exactly where He is, it's trusting Him through it all! Acknowledging God in all your ways means that you don't live for yourself and don't live in any kind of independence apart from God. There's no division in you between what's yours and what's God's.