“Let us now set forth one of the fundamental truths about marriage: the wife is in charge.” – Bill Cosby

**Genesis 3:16b (NIV):** “... your desire will be for your husband ...”

Hebrew “desire” = control

**Exodus 15:22-27 (NIV)**

**Exodus 14:28, 29 (NIV)**

“Feeling as though death was breathing down upon them, the Israelite’s need for water was immediate and great when suddenly the report must have filtered through the congregation that water lay ahead. I can see in my mind’s eye the people stampeding in the direction of the report, finding a pool, and diving in only to come up sputtering and spitting out bitter water.” – Pastor Jon Courson

Hebrew “Marah” = bitter

*Application of Marah = a place of bitter disappointment*

**People and circumstances don’t make us bitter, they reveal what’s already within us.**

[verse 25] Hebrew word “es” = a piece of wood

English synonym = plank

**Luke 6:42 (NIV):** “How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, & then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

**Control keeps us from facing the truth; particularly about ourselves.**
Elim = oxygen
Elim was a lush place with twelve wells of water and seventy palms.

**WE CLUTCH CONTROL BECAUSE OUR HEART IS FULL OF FEAR.**

The bottom line issue, whether mildly controlling or addicted to control, is the wrong belief,

“I KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR …”

**FEELING IN CONTROL IS AN ILLUSION!**

When you refuse to release something, you take the posture of anger and/or defensiveness.

Our expectations keep us addicted to control, or at least attached to it.

“Don’t fight your addictions. Refuse to feed them.” - Anonymous
How do we let go of expectations that cause us to be controlling?

1. Say and believe, “No one owes me anything!”

2. Practice the discipline of gratitude.

   Gratitude is to get your eyes, mind and attention off of what you don’t have that you think you deserve!

3. Take the posture of open hands.

   [Isaiah 40:25-29]
   WE TRY TO BE IN CONTROL BECAUSE WE THINK GOD IS NOT!

**For Further Study:**
- Psalm 25
- Psalm 62:5-8
- Jeremiah 17:5-10
- Lamentations 3:19-26
- Romans 8:28-39
- II Corinthians 4:7-18
- Hebrews 11
- I Peter 5:6-11