

Locked up

Determination doesn't always bring success. Life is filled with failures, some of which can only be overcome through divine help. The Bible teaches that we are locked in sin. We may struggle for freedom, but without God's assistance we will remain prisoners of our fallen nature. "The way of the faithless is their ruin" (Proverbs 13:15 NRSV*). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 KJV*).

**There are several good translations of the Bible. NRSV and KJV denote the New Revised Standard Version and the King James Version respectively. Unless otherwise noted, further references are from the King James Version.*



Ctrl

Control is the ultimate illusion. Can we really control our destiny? We can't even control ourselves! While we may know what is right, we cannot always do what is right (see Romans 7:15-17). Control over sin comes through choosing to serve God: "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:18). When we give Jesus Christ control of our life, He provides a destiny brighter than we could ever achieve on our own.



Alt

When life locks up, people try various alternatives to escape the consequences of their failures—neo-spiritualism, drugs, sex, alcohol, money, and ambition. But Jesus is the only alternative to help us escape. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).



Delete

Divorce. Bankruptcy. Suicide. Abandonment. Deletions like these sabotage our success and incapacitate all hope for the future. But the answer is addition, not subtraction. The Apostle Peter instructed us to add to our faith the qualities that God offers us: virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love. He said, "If you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive" (II Peter 1:5-8 New International Version).



Power Down

Depressed? Hopeless? Ready to give up? At the end of our search for solutions, God stands waiting. In our weakness, He is made strong. We "power down" by repenting and being baptized in water in the name of Jesus. If we humble ourselves, God will lift us up. By acknowledging our sin, asking for God's forgiveness, and determining to live righteously, we lay down our selfish ambitions. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:35).



Power Up

Jesus came to give us power. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). Real life is experienced in the greatness of God's power. Power to overcome. Power to live. Power to succeed. This power is found only in God's Spirit. "Ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8).

For more information read the Holy Bible (Acts 2:38, 8:16-17, 10:44-48, 19:1-6), and download our [Expanded Study](#).