

ENGAGING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

In Control or In Charge?

Karl mentioned a difficult experience that left him wounded and wondering. His story tailed off with, “I guess God is in control.” My heart went out to Karl. He wanted to trust God, but his statement of faith held more questions than conviction.

“Karl, could it be God is not in control? Might we consider God being in charge, but not in control?”

“I’ll have to think about that. What do you mean?”

“If God were in control, I do not think you would have been hurt. He is not like that. I hear you puzzled by what happened and how God could have let that take place. If God is in control, He mistreated you by not protecting you. It is hard to trust such a God. When God delegated the freedom to choose to us humans, He lost control. Many horrible things are done by people who misuse their God-given power.

“Perhaps a better way of seeing God is to say He is in charge, rather than in control. God’s ultimate purposes will one day be fulfilled, but in the meantime He does not yank away our right to choose.”

“That does change how we look at life and God,” commented Karl.