

## Week Two “Heartwork”: Control Issues

*Often we are tempted to assert control in situations because, frankly, we believe we know best how things should be decided. We want the best for our family and those we care for, and it seems only right that we should make every effort to ensure the best outcomes. And yet, the Bible teaches that we are not in control of our lives; God is. We are not the owners of our family and friends; God is. We don't have the wisdom to ensure a favorable result; but God does. The following passage reveals many aspects of the character and work of God in your life.*

Pray. Read the following passage and list your observations (aim for 20). You may find it helpful to read in one or two different translations.

Psalm 103:1-14 (NIV)

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits--
- <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,
- <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all the oppressed.
- <sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,  
his deeds to the people of Israel:
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.
- <sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- <sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve

*or repay us according to our iniquities.*

*<sup>11</sup>For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;*

*<sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

*<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;*

*<sup>14</sup>for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.*

*Sum Up what you saw in a sentence or two.*

*SPECK this passage to find a way to apply it in your life, especially in the area of letting go of our tendency to seize control:*