

PASSION CITY CHURCH

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Study Guide

# Relinquishing Control to a Loving and Sovereign God

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## Major Points

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- 1** The essential reset question is not 'Who am I?' but 'Who is my God?' — and whether you truly trust Him with everything running in the background of your life.  
*Psalm 46:1*
- 2** The sons of Korah could write a song of praise during a siege because they had a word from God — your confidence comes from what God has said, not from your circumstances.  
*Psalm 46:10*
- 3** Hezekiah's prayer at the fork in the road shows us the right response to threats: spread it before the Lord first, not last.  
*2 Kings 19:14-15*
- 4** Be still and know that I am God is not a cozy devotional phrase — it is a battlefield declaration of trust in the sovereignty of God while under siege.  
*Psalm 46:10*
- 5** If you believe God can save you from death to eternal life, you can trust Him to lead you through tomorrow — relinquish fear, control, bitterness, overthinking, and frustration to Him.  
*Psalm 46:7*

## Key Quotes

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- “God is so great. He is so beyond our comprehension. He puts on light shows that absolutely will shut down the process of your brain.”*  
at 49:34
- “We're confident that he raised us up out of death, but why can't we be just as confident that he's going to raise us up on Monday?”*  
at 31:06
- “Don't put it down too quick. Don't turn the page too quick. Don't go to start right notes real quick. Just stop, breathe that in, soak that in.”*  
at 12:25
- “If you want to succeed, align your life with what God has already told you he is going to do.”*  
at 37:23
- “They might not have found your tunnel yet, but don't count God out.”*  
at 35:57

## Discussion Questions

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1. Pastor Giglio asked, 'Who is your God, and do you trust Him?' — How would you honestly answer that question right now, especially considering what is running in the background of your life?  
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2. Pastor Giglio highlighted that Hezekiah prayed before he did anything else, not as a last resort. What is your typical response when you receive threatening or discouraging news, and how might praying first change the outcome?  
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3. Pastor Giglio pointed out that 'Be still and know that I am God' was spoken during an actual military siege, not a quiet devotional moment. How does knowing the historical context of Psalm 46:10 change the way you read and apply that verse?  
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4. Pastor Giglio described the Gihon Spring tunnel as an example of faith combined with action — trusting God's word while still digging a tunnel. Where in your life might God be asking you to take a practical step of obedience while trusting Him for the outcome?  
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5. Pastor Giglio listed several things to relinquish: fear, control, bitterness, overthinking, and frustration about how life should look. Which one resonates most with you right now, and what would it look like to truly let go of it this week?  
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## Word Studies

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## ραφάη (*raphah*)

### raphah

*Hebrew*

To sink, relax, let drop, be still, cease striving. Used in Psalm 46:10 ('Be still and know that I am God'). The word carries the sense of loosening one's grip, releasing control, and ceasing from self-effort. It is a command to stop fighting in your own strength and to recognize that God is sovereign. Some translations render it 'cease striving' or 'let go.'

*Usage: 46 times in the OT (Hebrew)*

## μαχση (*machseh*)

### machseh

*Hebrew*

A refuge, shelter, place of protection. Used in Psalm 46:1 ('God is our refuge'). Derived from the root 'chasah' (to seek refuge), it describes not a physical fortress but a relational shelter — the act of fleeing to God as a trusted protector. It implies vulnerability met with divine covering.

*Usage: 20 times in the OT (Hebrew)*

## σελαη (*selah*)

### selah

*Hebrew*

A liturgical or musical term appearing 71 times in the Psalms and 3 times in Habakkuk. Though its precise meaning is debated, it is most commonly understood as an instruction to pause, reflect, and meditate — to let the preceding words sink deeply into the heart. Pastor Giglio interpreted it as 'stop, think about it, breathe it in, onboard it.'

*Usage: 74 times in the OT (Hebrew)*

## Cross References

### Isaiah 41:10

God tells Israel 'Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God' — the same assurance given to Hezekiah and echoed in Psalm 46's refrain that the Lord Almighty is with us.

### 2 Chronicles 32:2-8

The parallel account of Hezekiah preparing for Sennacherib's siege, including blocking water sources and strengthening walls, with his exhortation: 'With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.'

### Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding — directly parallels the sermon's call to relinquish control and overthinking to God rather than relying on our own limited ability.

### Matthew 6:25-27

Jesus commands His followers not to worry about their lives, asking 'Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?' — reinforcing the sermon's message that fear and control are futile when God is sovereign.

### Joel 2:25

God promises to restore what the locusts have eaten — directly referenced by Pastor Giglio as assurance that even after devastation, God brings roots below and fruit above.

## Further Reading

- **Goliath Must Fall: Winning the Battle Against Your Giants**  
*by Louie Giglio*
- **Indescribable: 100 Devotions About God and Science**  
*by Louie Giglio*
- **Surrendered: Letting Go and Living Like Jesus**  
*by Barton Priebe*

## Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
Psalm 46:1-3	Read Aloud	15:00	God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present he...
Psalm 46:4-7	Read Aloud	20:00	There is a river whose streams make glad the city ...
Psalm 46:8-11	Read Aloud	25:00	Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolatio...
2 Kings 19:6-7	Read Aloud	29:00	Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master, this is wh...
2 Kings 19:14-19	Read Aloud	44:00	Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers a...
2 Kings 19:30-31	Read Aloud	48:00	Once more a remnant of the kingdom of Judah will t...
2 Kings 19:32-37	Read Aloud	50:00	He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow here...
Philippians 2:10-11	Referenced	68:00	That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, i...
1 John 4:8	Referenced	31:00	Whoever does not love does not know God, because G...