

## **Giving and Taking Control**

### **By Mark Hatfield**

The title of this section may seem confusing to you, since we are addressing the idea of taking control of ourselves. You are probably asking yourself, “How can you give control and take control at the same time?” Good question. What we want to cover in this section is something that may at first seem impossible but in the end, I trust, will all make sense.

Satan is using every deceptive scheme to lead you into sin and unrighteousness. You are preparing for the battle by putting on the armor of God (Eph 6:10-17). So what does all of this have to do with self-control? If we believe the text of the scriptures, we will be able to avoid and quench all that the enemy hurls at us. Paul said, “in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil {one.}”.

As long as we have done all to stand against Satan, we will be victorious. We need to find out if we have enough self-control to be able to stand against him in the most difficult situations. But you say, “I thought the text said faith”. You are right. But if we do not have self-control to apply what we believe (faith), we will not use the shield of faith and we will be struck by the fiery darts and fall into sin and unrighteousness. It is all linked to how we control ourselves. When we give God control of our lives we take control of our lives. You give yourself to God by bringing your life in submission to His will.

Let God be in control by controlling yourself in obedience to His word; you will have self-control.