Video #5: Giving Up Control

Outline

Cheri’s shares her once-upon-a-time vision of how she imagined her future would look. She used to think she was an *optimist*, but came to realize she was an *idealist*. She had a clear vision of what she wanted plus the determination to make it happen.

 **Thought:** *What happens when an “ideal” becomes an “idol”?*

An IDEA becomes and IDOL when we force it. And our choice to force something is a choice to hurt*.*

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Cheri teaches about The Hurt Cycle (download at [exhalebook.com/study](http://exhalebook.com/study) — it’s under the Week #5 video) and the emotional entanglement that results from it.

Briefly: We have expectations, we try to force them to happen, we experience disappointment, and then ultimately we feel hurt.

Our choice to FORCE IT is a choice TO HURT: to be hurt myself and to hurt others.

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Cheri then shares an example of a Cautionary Tale in scripture, a story where one person’s actions of forcing things resulted in severe consequences. From portions of **Genesis 24-27,** the story of Rebekah and Issac and their twins Esau and Jacob. Rebekah uses deceit to favor Jacob, but one betrayal only led to more betrayals. Rebekah FORCED things to happen her way and the result was HURT for everyone involved.

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 Cheri asks listeners to grab pen and paper and reflect on whether their core beliefs lean towards forcing things or facing God.
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Now it’s time to change things. Cheri leads us through another type of cycle: The Hope Cycle ([exhalebook.com/study](http://exhalebook.com/study) — it’s under the Week #5 video) Each step of The Hurt Cycle is changed. The new one, The HOPE Cycle, looks different.
Briefly: Anticipation, Face it, Surrender, and Hope. Cheri discusses each of these and the freedom they bring.

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**Application Point:**
*As you surrender your ONE life to God, you commit to FACE IT, not FORCE it.*
*When you FACE IT not FORCE IT, you will become a powerful FORCE for HOPE*.

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