

## The Jesus Way Never Push

**Pushing:** *When you use your energy, influence, or force of will to make an outcome happen that isn't naturally unfolding. It's when you take over. You stop cooperating with what God is doing and start managing what you think He should be doing.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Key:** Pushing is \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Chronicles 16:7** *"At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, 'Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped you.'"*

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Key:** Identify \_\_\_\_\_

**Key:** Your body will tell you \_\_\_\_\_

**Colossians 3:8** *But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.*

**3. Rely on God's goodness and love** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Peter 5:6-7** *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

- A disciple is someone who has decided the Jesus knows more about how to live my life than I do
- The waiting can reveal my character so I'm asking God to reveal and refine my character
- I put all my confidence in God's perfect timing and choose to believe every delay has a reason
- I remember the example of Jesus: He never pushed
- I put my focus entirely on the love of Jesus

*At its root, pride is the belief that you are the one who must handle your life.*

## Examples of Pushing

**2 extremes: I will push to make this happen or I will push to make sure nothing goes wrong.**

- We push conversations until the other person gives in or we push by bringing up the same unresolved issue for the tenth time because we can't let it go
- We push our kids toward the future we've already decided is best for them or we push against every choice they make that doesn't feel safe enough
- We push our agenda in meetings or we push back against every new idea because change is scary
- We push God our plan and ask Him to bless it or we refuse to open ourselves to God because we're afraid of what He will ask
- We push through exhaustion and neglect our bodies or we push everyone around us to follow the plan, the schedule, the system
- We push for recognition when our contribution goes unnoticed or we push by doing everything ourselves and then resent that nobody helped
- We push doors open that God hasn't opened or we refuse to walk through doors God has opened because we don't feel ready
- We push people toward spiritual growth on our timeline or we push people away with correction before we ever offer encouragement
- We push by trying to control what happens next or we push by trying to prevent what might happen next

**Both are saying the same thing: God I don't trust you enough to let go.**

**You've crossed the line from faithful effort into pushing when:**

- Your peace is gone
- Your pace is unsustainable
- People you love are being neglected
- Your grip on the outcome is so tight your stress is sky-high
- Your prayers are instructions to God rather than surrenders
- Your identity is riding on the result
- Your motivation is fear, control, or anger rather than trust
- You can't let others have the last word

## How To Fix Your Mind On The Love Of God

- You are love (*He is not just loving – He is love*)
- You love me
- You have proven your love for me by dying for me
- Your promises assure me you love me
- Love means you “will the good for me”
- That love extends to this very situation I’m facing now

**Because your love reaches here, I expect to see your activity in this situation. My confidence is in you and I am excited to see what you will do.**

### Psalm 23

#### A psalm of David.

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd;

I have all that I need.

<sup>2</sup>He lets me rest in green meadows;

he leads me beside peaceful streams.

<sup>3</sup> He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths,

bringing honor to his name.

<sup>4</sup>Even when I walk

through the darkest valley,

I will not be afraid,

for you are close beside me.

Your rod and your staff

protect and comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a feast for me

in the presence of my enemies.

You honor me by anointing my head with oil.

My cup overflows with blessings.

<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me

all the days of my life,

and I will live in the house of the Lord

forever.