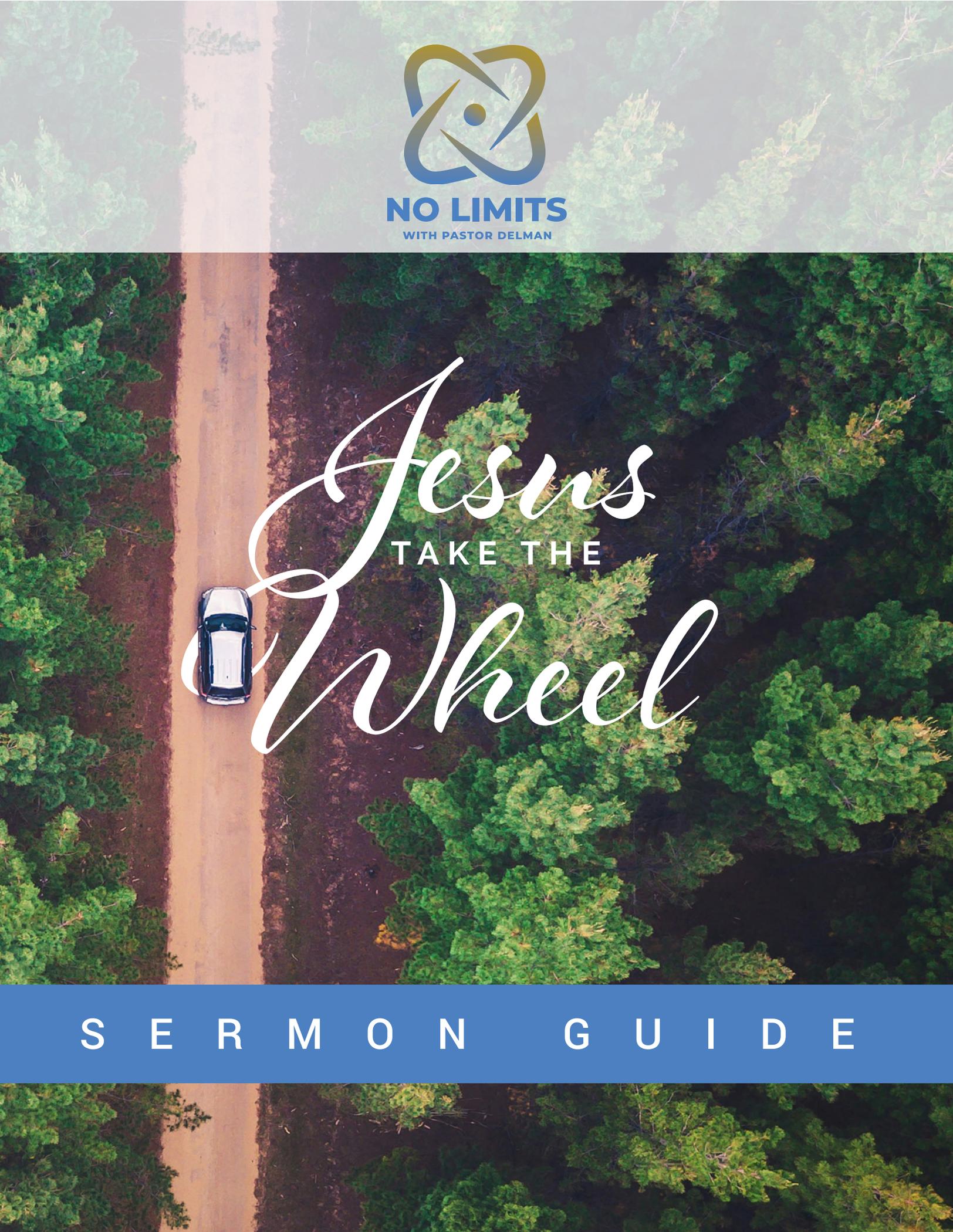




NO LIMITS

WITH PASTOR DELMAN



Jesus
TAKE THE
Wheel

S E R M O N G U I D E

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Jesus Take The Wheel

Romans 8:5-17

INTRODUCTION

In 2005, Carrie Underwood's song "Jesus, Take the Wheel" captured a feeling many of us know well. It tells the story of a young mother who, after losing control of her car on an icy road, throws her hands up and surrenders control to Jesus. The song became a massive success because it tapped into a foundational truth of the spiritual life: if you want to truly gain control of your life, you must first relinquish it. It is a powerful call for divine surrender, a recognition that our own efforts often lead us down dangerous roads.

This idea of letting go is what Paul describes as living a Spirit-led life. He contrasts walking "in the flesh" with walking "in the Spirit." The flesh represents the parts of us wounded by past pain, while the Spirit is the divine image of God within us. When we let Jesus take the wheel, we stop allowing our hurts and baggage to direct our lives. Instead, we allow the Christ consciousness within us to lead the way, transforming how we see ourselves, treat others, and engage with the world.

KEY POINTS

1. We Are Delivered From The Flesh And The Fear It Creates

Living by the Spirit delivers us from the control of our "flesh," the wounded parts of our personality shaped by past trauma. This does not mean we are never triggered, but it means those triggers no longer dictate our actions. Paul notes that we "did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear." This is profound because trauma can wire our brains to find comfort in chaos. Some people become so accustomed to dysfunction that peace feels strange. This "chaos addiction" ties our identity to our pain. But the Spirit frees us from this bondage, reminding us that we are not our wounds. We are not defined by the neglect, abuse, or abandonment we may have suffered.

2. We Are Adopted Into A New Family With A New Identity

When we are led by the Spirit, we become "children of God." We are adopted into a new family, becoming heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. This is a radical shift in identity and belonging. Like children adopted from a difficult environment into a loving home, we must learn new patterns and unlearn old ways of survival. The ways of the "flesh," born out of fear and scarcity, must be replaced by the ways of the Spirit, which are love, power, and a sound mind. This new family gives us a secure place from which to heal and grow, assuring us we are never alone.

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3. The Spirit-Led Life Changes How We Think And What Motivates Us

Paul says that those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live by the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. When Jesus is in control, our focus shifts. We move from a mindset of self-preservation and self-gratification to one centered on the heart of God. Our motivation changes from pleasing ourselves to pleasing God. This transformation is not just an internal feeling; it changes our actions. Instead of reacting with anger or bitterness, we learn to respond with love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness. Our primary drive becomes living a life that honors God and reflects His character to a watching world.

4. We Have The Power To Separate From Our Past Wounds

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us, giving life to our mortal bodies. With this power, Paul says we can "put to death the deeds of the body." This means we have the capacity to separate, or unblend, our core self from the wounds and harmful patterns we have grown accustomed to. We can begin to see our pain without being consumed by it. Like putting on 3D glasses at a movie, the Spirit gives us a new perspective. God, who once seemed distant, becomes near. We can see our situations differently and find the strength to heal. This is not about denying our history but about refusing to let it have the final say over our future.

Surrendering the wheel to Jesus is a powerful idea, but it is often difficult to practice. It is like being a passenger in your own car, fighting the urge to grab the wheel or give constant directions. Trust does not come easily. We have to practice letting go every day, in small moments and big decisions. This journey of surrender is not just for our personal comfort or peace of mind. It is a deeply political and social act. As we learn to "unblend" from our personal traumas, we are also called to unblend from the toxic systems of our culture, systems that promote injustice, division, and oppression.

Living by the Spirit means rejecting a world that tells us to look out for ourselves and instead embracing a Kingdom ethic that calls us to love our neighbor, seek justice for the oppressed, and care for the marginalized. When we let Jesus take the wheel, He does not just drive us to a place of personal peace. He drives us into the heart of the world's pain, armed with His love and empowered by His Spirit to be agents of healing, reconciliation, and transformation. Our surrender becomes our mission.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what specific area of your life do you find it most difficult to "let Jesus take the wheel," and what fear is holding you back from surrendering control?
2. The sermon describes "chaos addiction," where we find comfort in old, painful patterns. What old patterns from your past do you need to consciously leave behind to fully embrace your new identity in God's family?
3. How can you practically cultivate a "Spirit-led mind" this week that actively seeks to please God and pursue justice, especially when cultural pressures encourage selfishness or indifference?
