

"That's not Biblical and Why" (Student Copy)

November 19, 2025

"Common statements people think are in the Bible that are not actually Biblical?" But does the Bible say what we think it says? The truth is, there are several phrases that sound like they come from the Bible, but do not.

"Are we supposed to let go and let God?"

- **Actually, the truth is the Bible never tells us to "let go and let God." Origin: The phrase is not found in the Bible but emerged from the Keswick Convention, which began in England in the late 1800s.**
- **More specifically, Evangelical Christian gatherings originating in the town of Keswick, England, in 1875, focused on promoting personal holiness and spiritual renewal, resulted from a misinterpretation of Scriptures such as:**
- **Matthew 5:48 (NET 2nd ed.); Matthew 19:21 (NET 2nd ed.); Philippians 3:12–15 (NET 2nd ed.) — 12)**
- **The meaning of the "let go" teachings is that it falsely encourages a surrender of personal control (free will) and worries to God, with the belief that this allows God to work in and through a person's life which sounds completely biblical. It became known as Keswick Theology.**
- **The concept of surrendering to God is biblically supported in scriptures such as: Proverbs 3:5–6 (NET 2nd ed.); James 4:7 (NET 2nd ed.)**
- **The popular idea of "letting go" is to adopt a sort of spiritual inertia (inaction) wherein we do nothing, say nothing, feel nothing, and simply live life by allowing circumstances to roll over us however they may.**
- **The Christian life, however, as stated in the Bible is a spiritual battle which the Bible exhorts us to prepare for, confront, and wage diligently spiritual warfare.**
 - **"Fight the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12);**
 - **"Endure hardship . . . like a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:3);**
 - **"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" (Ephesians 6:11).**
 - **Letting go, in the sense of sitting back and watching events unfold however they may, is not biblical.**

To begin with, consider that Jesus was clear that, apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5).
 - **In John 15 the picture of the vine and the branches is very appropriate. Christ is the vine; we are the branches.**

- **The branches are simply something as it is connected with the vine the fruit hangs on. The same is true of the Christian life. We are a conduit through which Christ displays His (not our) fruit.**
- **So, what has all this to do with “letting go”? Many people believe that, if we are truly in a state of “letting go,” we will be able to cease from striving and struggling (now that belief does not come from the bible).**
- **That goes against what Jesus said, Luke 13:24 that we are to “strive” to enter the narrow gate to eternal life, not to sit by and wait to die so we can gain heaven.**
- **Asking God for help does not relieve us of our responsibility to do as He says, because there is a positive reason for struggling—it is good for us and is God’s plan to grow and mature us into the people He wants us to be.**
- **Challenges serve as opportunities for growth, enhancing our resilience and preparing us to address future difficulties more effectively. Each experience contributes to greater strength and adaptability.**
- **Trials are designed to show us and others that our faith is real. 1 Peter 1:7 (NET 2nd ed.)**
- **When we say “let go and let God” to those who struggle, we must be careful we aren’t suggesting to them that if they were stronger Christians they wouldn’t deal with such things.**
- **One of the greatest dangers of this theology is that the devil loves for Christians to believe theologically in ‘Let Go and Let God.’**
- **He knows he cannot keep us from the salvation wrought by Christ at Calvary, but he will attempt to do his greatest work to undermine as well as obscure the gospel truth by encouraging you to be overly confident in oneself (works) and underconfident in the work of God and His Christ.**
- **“Let go and let God” as biblical advice to a person who is struggling gives the impression that there is some kind of next-level Christian experience just waiting for us to crack the faith code.**
- **Which when you put much thought to it, if God wants us to do such, what need would there be for faith in what God will do.**
- **Even still, based on the premise of Keswick thought, the great apostle Paul never used such terminology.**
- **Our enemy’s lies erode the comfort in knowing that no matter what our difficulties, we are already close to God through union with his Son by faith.**

- **“Let go and let God” is a lie that will ironically make you feel further from God, not closer.**

You Don't 'Let' God Do Anything

- **Another issue is the idea that Christians can reach a point of sinlessness (or near-sinlessness). But a big problem hiding behind the others is one that is repeated in countless Christian sermons, books, social media thoughts, and even songs.**
- **It is the notion of “letting God.” The English Anglican cleric and author W. H. Thomas says, We must “allow the Holy Spirit” to operate, but his words sound a lot like the Holy Spirit is our servant, rather than the third Person of the Trinity and thus our God.**
- **We are told that we need to “let God” do all manner of things before he can guide us, bless us, reward us, and so on.**
- **To all of this we ought to say that any God who needs us to activate him is not much of a god at all.**
- **Fact, He doesn't need our help. And he doesn't need our permission.**
- **Another reason the serpent told Adam and Eve they would be like God is because he wanted more than anything by implication to demote the one true God to man-like status.**
- **Satan loves “let God” language because he loves the idea of a deficient God. We as the people of God must be careful as to what we say, because he will support any so-called doctrine of God that is weak and unbiblical, and we become more than anything his accomplishments.**
- **The true living God is sovereign over all. If he does not do something, it is because ultimately he has willed not to do it, not that He couldn't do it.**
- **Paul says in Philippians 2:12–13 (NET 2nd ed.)**
- **The gospel according to Satan has one objective in mind, and that is to dethrone the true Sovereign God and enthrone those who are His subjects.**
- **Only the full counsel of the true gospel is the right antidote to “let go and let God” thinking, because it is only the true gospel which reminds us that God is sovereign over us and our circumstances—including our good works for which He has created us to perform—while at the same time empowering us for these good works.**
- **Ephesians 2:10 (NET 2nd ed.)**