

THE CONTROL GIRL QUIZ

Hey, friend! Shannon Popkin here.

I've designed this quiz for women like me, back when I had no idea if I was a "Control Girl". I hope you'll be honest with yourself, but also have fun with it. As you take the quiz, try to imagine how others might answer these questions about you.

1. Do you struggle with anger? Do you erupt when something doesn't go your way? Do you lose your cool over even small, insignificant interruptions? Do you inwardly (or outwardly) seethe at people who make your life difficult, or who disagree with you – even over small things?

2. Do you struggle with worry or anxiety? Are you gripped with fear over the future? Do you fret about your own safety or the safety of those you love? Do you obsess over small concerns because you're worried about where they will lead? Do you tend to project into the future, consider all of the "what ifs", and overreact?

3. Are you irritated by other controlling people? Is there a controlling person in your life who deeply frustrates you? Are you more bothered by this person than others? Do you react in a passive aggressive manner when a controlling person gives you no choice or violates your "turf"?

4. Do friends or family members send subtle hints? Do others give tactful clues that they'd like you to back off? Do they ever roll their eyes and say, "I got it, the first six times, Mom!" or "I can handle it,"? If we cornered the people who love you most, would they privately admit that you are pushy or overbearing?

5. Do they call you the _____ Nazi?" Maybe the "Food Nazi"? Or the "Seatbelt Nazi"? Do other people resist your efforts to get them to do what is in their best interest? Are there people at work, home, or in your community who might say that you micromanage, overstep, or insist on your way?

6. Does your husband feel disrespected by you? Does he get angry because you interrupt? Does he get frustrated when you give suggestions or tell him how to do it? Does he often become sullen, explosive, or withdrawn? Has he opted out of parenting because you've corrected him so much? Has he started spending more time out than in?

CONTROL GIRL QUIZ, CONT.

7. **Do your kids think you're nagging them?** Do your young children have closed hearts toward you? Do your grown children withhold information or try to avoid your questions? Do your kids bristle when you come in the room?

8. **Are you undisciplined?** Do you regularly eat too much, spend too much, stay up too late, or spend too much time on social media? Are you constantly late? Do you struggle to live within any sort of boundary lines or limits?

9. **Are you rigidly perfectionistic?** Do you obsess over every calorie, every cent, or every minute spent? Are you a perfectionist with your home, your car, your appearance, or your work? Do you feel peace, only when you have everything under control? Do others think of you as rigid and inflexible?

10. **Do you keep hidden agendas?** Do you tend to conceal information or only tell part of the story, to give yourself leverage? Do you use information to manipulate people? Do you use relational equity to your advantage?

11. **Do you have a lifestyle of "image control"?** Do you guard yourself against hurt by trying to control of what people think of you? Do you throw yourself into your work, ministry, or appearance to ward off feelings of worthlessness? Do you put up walls in relationships or limit yourself to superficiality?

12. **Does God seem far away?** Do you picture God as distant or uncaring? Are you suspicious of His motives? Do you think of Him as too indifferent, apathetic, or disinterested to concern Himself with the things that matter to you?

So, how'd you do?

Did you answer yes to some of the questions? Most? Do you think you might be a Control Girl?

If so, don't despair. I have good news for you: No woman has to be a Control Girl. Yes, women tend to have a bent toward wanting control, but God offers us another option. Another path. He invites us to a life of surrender. To say, as Jesus did, "Not my will, but yours be done."

Come explore what God has to say about control in "Control Girl: Lessons on Surrendering Your Burden of Control for Seven Women in the Bible."

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