

“Let”

Occurs 1,511 times in 1,219 verses in our Bible

In Genesis 1 God set the stage....

If we are made in the image of God, then we must accept the reality that God made us to be active, since he is not just holy, righteous, trustworthy, kind, and loving — but he is also creatively active.

Dictionaries offer examples as well as definitions for the simple word **let**. As an example, “When we need to **let** go of something that keeps us from doing the right thing, the Bible can offer powerful words of advice and encouragement.” And, as a definition of that simple word we get: “to cause to,” or “give opportunity to” or “to give an instruction” or “to fail to forbid.”

And we see that when God said “**Let**” it was often followed by action, as these examples plainly illustrate.

Genesis 1:3 Then God said, “**Let** there be light”; and there was light.

Genesis 1:6 “**Let** there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and **let** it divide the waters from the waters.”

Genesis 1:11 “**Let** the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and **let** the dry *land* appear...”

Genesis 1:14-15 “**Let** there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night...”

Genesis 1:24 “**Let** the earth bring forth the living creature *each* according to its kind...”

Genesis 1:26 “**Let** Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness....

It was as if God was speaking out loud what he wanted to have done, and the power in his words would **Let** (or allow) it to be done. Paul’s 1st letter to the Corinthians indicates in 8:6 that God was the creator, yet Jesus was God’s agent of creation. **There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live.**

It seems that God spoke (a spirit thought), and Jesus **Let** (or caused) it to come forth (physically).

Consider: Is this the way our Father has chosen to seek our participation in actions on this earth? We know that God communicates with us through his Word and through his Spirit. When we are faced with a circumstance, and our inner man senses the Holy Spirit’s inner prompting, we sense that prompting as a call to act. Or when our mental response to a circumstance causes our Father to put a “check” in our inner man (spirit), that is God saying “No!” Oswald Chambers wrote in response to that inner check — “**When in doubt, don’t!**”

Throughout our day, God is quietly wanting to be an active part of our decisions and actions — helping us to make godly choices.

In the New Testament, those who are born again into God’s spiritual family are called on to allow his active participation in both our thoughts and our actions.

To be more specific, we are taught that God gave his life for us, so he could give his life to us, so he could live his life through us. It would seem then that more often than not when

we are confronted with a potential decision and action, God is saying to us — **Hear my thought! — Let me be your guide and your power to action!**

And how do we flesh out those promptings and checks in our spirit?

Philippians 2:5 ...let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus....

Allow Your mind in me to motivate and guide my actions

Colossians 3:15 ...let the peace of God rule in your hearts....

Permit Your peace to take charge of my thoughts and my heart

Romans 12:9 ...let love be without hypocrisy....

Love is kind. Let kindness be Your expression of love through me

Matthew 5:16 ...let your light so shine before men....

You are the light of the world...let Your light shine through me

Philippians 1:27 ...let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ....

Let my actions reflect the life You live in me

Philippians 4:6 ...let your speech always be with grace....

Let my thoughts and speech reflect Your mercy and grace

John 14:9 ...let not your heart be troubled....

Lord, let my anxious thoughts be in Your hands today

Hebrews 12:1 ...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us....

Lord light the path You have set before me today

James 1:4 ...let patience have its perfect work....

Let Your fruit of patience work in and through me

Romans 6:12 ...let not sin reign in your mortal body....

I refuse sin's pull to alter the perfection of my bond with You Lord

Reality: I would personally be less than honest if I were to infer that I have conquered the difficulty that comes with learning to **LET**. Maybe it is just a part of growing older (sounds better than growing old), but it seems to me that some of the negative realities of my past are becoming more and more vivid as I get closer to that moment when I am called to give an account for my every word and deed — the judgement seat of Christ!

For example, over the last couple of years I have too easily allowed my “self” to generate unkind responses to my wife’s dementia and strokes. The freedoms we naturally have in our educated culture tend to embolden our personal knowledge, skills, strengths, and experience to believe we are well beyond capable in most situations. Tie those proficiencies to our natural selfish and controlling tendencies and we find ourselves in a real battle to yield, to allow, to **LET** our indwelling, invisible, and often seemingly silent God take over and take charge.

In a humorous moment I asked God why he didn’t choose a more valorous and battle hardened word than **LET** to challenge us to yield. I decided that God is so at peace with himself that he thought **LET** would be the best word for we English speaking warriors — male and female alike. Interesting. We are part of a unique family that often finds it difficult to truly walk the walk. And we are not alone.

Jacob was a cheater,
David had an affair,
Noah got drunk,
Samson had control issues
Jonah ran from God,
Paul was a murderer,
Gideon was insecure,
Martha was a worrier,
Thomas was a doubter,
Sara was impatient,
Elijah was moody,
Moses stuttered,
Zacchaeus was short,
Abraham was old,
and Lazarus was dead.¹

As Ian Thomas once said — “God loves failures.”
Thank you, Lord.

¹ Author Unknown