

Life Suckers

The Manipulator

Genesis 25:26 Then the other twin was born with his hand grasping Esau's heel. So they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when the twins were born. (NLT)

1. Recognize manipulation

Matthew 16:22–23 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” (NIV)

1 Corinthians 10:23 You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is beneficial. (NLT)

Signs You're Being Manipulated

1. You always feel guilty
2. You feel threatened
3. You compromise your biblical convictions
4. You compromise your personal convictions
5. It's good for them, but not good for you
6. They have a track record of manipulation

2. Say no to manipulation

Matthew 5:37 Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one. (NLT)

Genesis 25:29–34 One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry.³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, “I’m starved! Give me some of that red stew!” (This is how Esau got his other name, Edom, which means “red.”)³¹ “All right,” Jacob replied, “but trade me your rights as the firstborn son.”³² “Look, I’m dying of starvation!” said Esau. “What good is my birthright to me now?”³³ But Jacob said, “First you must swear that your birthright is mine.” So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob.³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn. (NLT)

HALT when you are vulnerable, that is when you are:

Hungry

Angry

Lonely

Tired

3. Think long-term, not short-term

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4. Stop manipulating people

2 Corinthians 11:13–14 These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ.¹⁴ But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (NLT)

Proverbs 3:3–4 Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.⁴ So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man. (NASB)

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. (NIV)