

"TRUST IN HIS PLAN FOR YOU"



"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5, 6

In a world that saturates people with information, and promotes reliance on intelligence and education, to trust the Lord and not one's own understanding is almost unthinkable. But this is the nucleus of what it means to surrender. A surrendered Christian acknowledges God at every step, living a life of total trust in His miracle power and perfect plan.

"WHAT SURRENDER IS NOT"

What Surrender is not is bondage, oppression, allowing others to manipulate us, or being abused. It means being released from the bondage of self to follow Christ and to live in liberty. Surrender is not about I can't or I won't or I have given up; it is not about defeat, but it is all about trust. It is allowing God to love us, and feeling and knowing Him. The result is knowing that our God is trustworthy as LORD and Guide for our lives. Submission is not a mindless act we undertake; it is a freedom we have. It is not something we merely do superficially; rather, it comes from our innermost being, from our growth in Christ, our conviction and then our confidence in Him, and is honed by our inward attitude to Him. Submitting means we are yielding to the power and authority of our God; it is not a submission to a conqueror and we are not unwilling captives. Rather, we submit to one who is Superior, who love us ever so deeply, and Who has our best in mind and in His Hand. With this Discipline of Surrender, we need not fear our circumstances or what others may think. Our fears do not drive us; God and His precepts do! The only thing we should fear is sin and our reverting to our sinful nature as a driving force.

"IT IS NOW OUR TURN TO SURRENDER"

The goal of every Christian should be to become Christ-like, and to live life with the courage, compassion, power and principles of Jesus. His greatest example was that He surrendered Himself completely to the will of the Father by offering His life as a sacrifice for mankind. Every Christian benefits from the work accomplished by Jesus. Now it is the Christian's turn to offer a sacrifice of self. To acknowledge Jesus as Lord is to surrender to Him. The word surrender implies a giving up after resistance to the power of another, and, in this case, includes accepting the superiority of someone else. It is not accepting defeat, per se, as there is no loss of life or property. To surrender means the end of the fight, and there is no more argument. It is the solid realization that His way is a better way.



Surrender is a battle term. It implies giving up all rights to the conqueror. When an opposing army surrenders, they lay down their arms, and the winners take control from then on. Surrendering to God works the same way. God has a plan for our lives, and surrendering to Him means we set aside our own plans and

eagerly seek His. The good news is that God's plan for us is always in our best interest (Jeremiah 29:11) "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Unlike our own plans that often lead to destruction (Proverbs 14:12) "There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death." Our Lord is a wise and beneficent victor; He conquers us to bless us.

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SURRENDER



There are different levels of surrender, all of which affect our relationship with God. Initial surrender to the drawing of the Holy Spirit leads to salvation (John 6:44) "No one can come to Me unless drawn by the Father Who sent Me; and I will raise that person up on the last day."



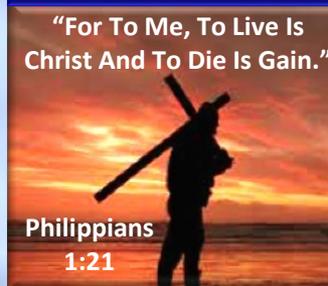
"Faith Is Having The Courage To Let God Have Control."



"Balance In Our Lives Comes When We Stop Striving To Control And We Start Desiring To Surrender."

(Acts 2:21) "Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." When we let go of our own attempts to earn God's favor and rely upon the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, we become a child of God. (John 1:12) "But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God..." (2 Corinthians 5:21) "For our sake He made Him to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." But there are times of greater surrender during a Christian's life that bring deeper intimacy with God and greater power in service. The more areas of our lives we surrender to Him, the more room there is for the filling of the Holy Spirit. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we exhibit traits of His character (Galatians 5:22,23) "By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

"TAKE UP YOUR CROSS"



"For To Me, To Live Is Christ And To Die Is Gain."

Philippians 1:21

Romans 6:13 says that God demands that we surrender the totality of our selves; He wants the whole, not a part: "Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to Him as an instrument of righteousness." Jesus said that His followers

must deny themselves (Mark 8:34) "He called the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me." Another call to surrender.

"THE MEANING OF REAL SURRENDER TO GOD"



When we think about, "SURRENDERING TO GOD," we usually think in terms of letting God do what He wants with a SITUATION. This is certainly good – for most often God does use situations to bring us to a surrender. However, if we limit surrender to our situation, we are liable to miss the point.

God wants us to surrender a situation. But more than this, God wants us to surrender ourselves! Yet it is important for us to grasp the meaning of surrendering ourselves. For again, we often think that this means, "Well, I will die to myself and put aside what I want in this thing, and allow God to do as He pleases." Again – this is good. But it still isn't the real issue. To surrender ourselves to God means this: I will let God do in me whatever is necessary to get Himself glory, and whatever is necessary to make me into the person He is after. I hope we see that this is much different than surrendering a situation to God. It is. What I am talking about here is more than surrendering things to God, and then standing back and letting Him work. No. I am talking about surrendering Ourselves to God. There is no standing back. And there is no simple, "COOPERATION WITH GOD." Rather, the whole issue is our relationship with God. Our Whole Self – is falling into His hands so that He can make us what He wants through the current situation. Actually, this is what Paul means when he talks about giving ourselves to God as a living sacrifice: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:1-2)

"GOD'S GLORY AND OUR FREEDOM"



What is being described here is not the surrender of a situation or a circumstance. No. It is the surrender of the PERSON. If we do this, we are saying to God, "Lord, I relinquish my right to be what I think I ought to be, and I fall into Your hands so that You can make me be what You want me to be."

This will result in God's glory, and of course, in our freedom. Now, this ought to be great news. Because what it means is that it takes out of your hands the pressure of trying to be what you think you should be. It takes off of you the necessity of, "Trying To Have Faith." It removes the fear that you might not know what you need to know to come through to the will of God in any matter. It puts all of that in God's hands. In effect, we simply surrender ourselves to God. He does the rest.

"TRIALS MOVE US INTO THE NEXT STEP IN SURRENDERING"



"As For Me, I Am In Your Hands; Do With Me Whatever You Think Is Good And Right." Jeremiah 26:14

I'm not saying we need not believe and obey – as much as possible, right where we are. But if you have not yet figured it out, you know that the very nature of a great trial is that "You Cannot Seem To Do This." You find that you don't have the faith, and continue to fail. God is exposing you as inadequate so that you

will take this next step. He wants you to say, "Lord, do whatever is necessary to make me what You are after. Lord, I don't have the faith. Do what is necessary to create in me the faith. Lord, I don't know if I am right about this matter – I don't know if I have seen the Truth about You in it. But I give myself to You that you might do whatever it takes to show me the Truth, and to make that Truth living in me." This is true surrender, and the one spoken about in Romans 12:1-2.

Of course, when we make such a surrender to God, we are really telling Him to crucify in us whatever must do in order that CHRIST IN US might be made manifest – to us, in us, and through us. This isn't about us becoming a wonderful specimen – it is about God doing whatever it takes to get us out of the way and manifest Christ. And the fact is, this is always God's goal – Christ. God wants to glorify Himself in us, and that never means anything less than to make Christ seen and know. He wants us to be living epistles of what it means for God to have His way with a human being.