



SURRENDER
TO
GOD



SURRENDER
ministries

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"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart
and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge Him
and He shall direct thy paths."
Proverbs 3:5,6

In this presentation, we take a close look at surrendering to God and the tremendous impact it will have in your life. In doing so, the following questions will be answered:

- How intimately does God want to get involved in my life?
- Do I have a free will?
- What is surrender?
- Is surrender necessary?
- How do I surrender to God?
- What will happen when I surrender to God?

HOW INTIMATELY DOES GOD WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN MY LIFE?

When we fully surrender our lives into God's control, He will perfectly orchestrate every aspect of our lives. *Nothing* can touch us until it has first gone across "God's desk" and received His all-knowing approval and/or permission. "He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. Whatever comes to him comes from the Saviour, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord's permission. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us." *Help In Daily Living p.21,22 (Ministry of Healing p.489)*

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Our Guide in Every Circumstance

"If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision. Whatever may be our situation, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexities, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or

loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. If in our ignorance we make missteps, Christ does not leave us." *Christ's Object Lessons p.173*

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." *1 Corinthians 10:13*

Nothing Too Small

"Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice... The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watch care; not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son." *Steps to Christ p.100*

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? [4 cents] and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." *Matthew 10:29-31*

God's Plans Are Best

"Our plans are not always God's plans. He may see that it is best for us and for His cause to refuse our very best intentions, as He did in the case of David. But of one thing we may be assured, He will bless and use in the advancement of His cause those who sincerely devote themselves and all they have to His glory. If He sees it best not to grant their desires He will counterbalance the refusal by giving them tokens of His love and entrusting to them another service.

In His loving care and interest for us, often He who understands us better than we understand ourselves refuses to permit us selfishly to seek the gratification of our own ambition. He does not permit us to pass by the homely but sacred duties that lie next us. Often these duties afford the very training essential to prepare us for a higher work. Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed.

We are never called upon to make a real sacrifice for God. Many things He asks us to yield to Him, but in doing this we are but giving up that which hinders us in the heavenward way. Even when called upon to surrender those things which in themselves are good, we may be sure that God is thus working out for us some higher good.

In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings." *Help In Daily Living p.5,6 (Ministry of Healing p.473,474)*

"...our heavenly Father in love answers our prayers by giving us that which will be for our highest good -- that which we ourselves would desire if with vision divinely enlightened we could see all things as they really are." *Steps to Christ p.96*

"God does not require us to give up anything that it is for our best interest to retain. In all that He does, He has the well-being of His children in view." *Steps to Christ p.46*

"As for God, his way is perfect:" *Psalms 18:30*

The Perfect Solution

"To the omnipotence of the King of kings our covenant-keeping God unites the gentleness and care of the tender shepherd... He has means for the removal of every difficulty, that those who serve Him and respect the means He employs may be sustained." *Help In Daily Living p.13,14 (Ministry of Healing p.481,482)*

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." *Matthew 6:33,34*

"If you have given yourself to God, to do His work, you have no need to be anxious for tomorrow. He whose servant you are, knows the end from the beginning. The events of tomorrow, which are hidden from your view, are open to the eyes of Him who is omnipotent.

When we take into our hands the management of things with which we have to do, and depend upon our own wisdom for success, we are taking a burden which God has not given us, and are trying to bear it without His aid. We are taking upon ourselves the responsibility that belongs to God, and thus are really putting ourselves in His place. We may well have anxiety and anticipate danger and loss, for it is certain to befall us. But when we really believe that God loves us and means to do us good we shall cease to worry about the future. We shall trust God as a child trusts a loving parent. Then our troubles and torments will disappear, for our will is swallowed up in the will of God.

Christ has given us no promise of help in bearing today the burdens of tomorrow. He has said, 'My grace is sufficient for thee' (2 Corinthians 12:9); but, like the manna given in the wilderness, His grace is bestowed daily, for the day's need...

One day alone is ours, and during this day we are to live for God. For this one day we are to place in the hand of Christ, in solemn service, all our purposes and plans, casting all our care upon Him, for He careth for us." *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing p.100,101*

DO I HAVE A FREE WILL?

The One Thing You Control

"You cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire; but you can control the will, and you can make an entire change in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, your life will be hid with Christ in God and allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 5 p.514*

Christ Will Never Control Your Will by Force

"It is not part of Christ's mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, who seek to compel the conscience. Under a pretense of zeal for righteousness, men who are confederated with evil angels sometimes bring suffering upon their fellow men in order to convert them to their ideas of religion; but Christ is ever showing mercy, ever seeking to win by the revealing of His love. He can admit no rival in the soul, nor accept of partial service; but He desires only voluntary service, the willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love." *The Acts of the Apostles p.541*

WHAT IS SURRENDER?

"Surrender" is defined by Webster's Dictionary as: "To yield to the power of another." Yielding completely to the power of God entails no risk. In His divine wisdom, God invites us to let Him direct every step of our lives. The God of the universe remembers our past and knows our future. He will do what we can never do for ourselves: perfectly orchestrate every aspect of our lives.

"God does not design that our will should be destroyed, for it is only through its exercise that we can accomplish what He would have us do. Our will is to be yielded to Him, that we may receive it again, purified and refined, and so linked in sympathy with the Divine that He can pour through us the tides of His love and power. However bitter and painful this surrender may appear to the willful, wayward heart, yet 'it is profitable for thee.' " *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing p.62*

IS SURRENDER NECESSARY?

Christ Our Example

"...the Son of God was surrendered to the Father's will, and dependent upon His power. So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will." *The Desire of Ages p.208*

"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgement is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." *John 5:30*

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: " *Phillipians 2:5*

The Only Way to Find Peace

"Many who profess to be Christ's followers have an anxious, troubled heart because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him, for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender they cannot find peace.

There are many whose hearts are aching under a load of care because they seek to reach the world's standard. They have chosen its service, accepted its perplexities, adopted its customs. Thus their character is marred and their life made a weariness. The continual worry is wearing out the life forces. Our Lord desires them to lay aside this yoke of bondage. He invites them to accept His yoke; He says, 'My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.' Worry is blind and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. 'No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.' Matthew 11:30; Psalm 84:11." *Help In Daily Living p.12,13 (Ministry of Healing p.480,481)*

The Key to Happiness

"Surrendering self to God is all He requires, giving ourselves to Him to be employed as He sees fit. Until we come to this point of surrender, we shall not work happily, usefully, or successfully." *Ellen G. White comments in SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7A p.325*

The Battle for Control

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart... But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one.

We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world. It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not co-operate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place. The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end." *The Desire of Ages* p.324

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" *Romans 6:16*

Good Intentions Are Not Enough

"Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now *choose* to be Christians." *Steps to Christ* p.47,48

God Requires Surrender

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." *Matthew 7:21*

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." *Galatians 6:7*

"When you give up your own will, your own wisdom, and learn of Christ, you will find admittance into the kingdom of God. He requires entire, unreserved surrender." *1 Selected Messages* p.110

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." *1 John 2:17*

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." *Ephesians 5:17*

"Paul had a keen sense of the conflict which every soul must wage with the agencies of evil that are continually seeking to deceive and ensnare, and he had worked untiringly to strengthen and confirm those who were young in the faith. He had entreated them to make an entire surrender to God; . . ." *The Acts of the Apostles p.298*

"Satan does not want anyone to see the necessity of an entire surrender to God. When the soul fails to make this surrender, sin is not forsaken; the appetites and passions are striving for the mastery; temptations confuse the conscience, so that true conversion does not take place." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 6 p.92*

HOW DO I SURRENDER TO GOD?

You Must Choose

"Many are inquiring, 'How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?' You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can *choose* to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him." *Steps to Christ p.47*

"...choose you this day whom ye will serve;..." *Joshua 24:15*

A Total Surrender

"The surrender must be complete. Every weak, doubting, struggling soul who yields fully to the Lord is placed in direct touch with agencies that enable him to overcome. Heaven is near to him, and he has the support and help of angels of mercy in every time of trial and need." *The Acts of the Apostles p.299*

Surrender - The First Priority of Each Day

"Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, 'Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.' This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ."
Steps to Christ p.70

An Example of an Effective Morning Prayer of Surrender

Our Father in Heaven,

Thank you for another day of life. Please help me to surrender all things to you today. I surrender my thoughts. I surrender my words. I surrender my actions to your will. Please take control of my emotions and my impulses today. Please maintain the presence of my angel by my side today to protect me from evil and danger and to prompt my mind with Christlike thoughts. Please maintain and increase the presence of the Holy Spirit within me to comfort me and to fill me with the fruits of the Spirit:

Love
Joy
Peace
Longsuffering
Gentleness
Goodness
Faith
Meekness
Temperance

Some Examples of Items We Must Surrender to God:

Self
Words
Actions
Our will
Lifestyle
Problems
Thoughts

Decisions
What we eat
Relationships
What we read
What we view
What we drink
What we listen to
Pain and suffering
Change of character
How often we exercise
Outcome of doctrinal questions
How we spend the time God has given us
How we spend the money God has given us

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I SURRENDER TO GOD?

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan." *The Desire of Ages p.324*

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." *Isaiah 26:3*

"Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith." *Steps to Christ p.48*

"For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." *Matthew 12:50*

"So long as we surrender the will to God, and trust in His strength and wisdom, we shall be guided in safe paths, to fulfill our appointed part in His great plan." *The Desire of Ages p.209*

"For our God delights to do 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.' Ephesians 3:20. To Jesus, who emptied Himself for the salvation of lost humanity, the Holy Spirit was given without measure. So it will be given to every follower of Christ when the whole heart is

surrendered for His indwelling. Our Lord Himself has given the command, 'Be filled with the Spirit' (Ephesians 5:18), and this command is also a promise of its fulfillment." *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing p.20,21*

"If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your own spiritual choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of heart to His gracious call you come wearing the yoke of Christ, -- the yoke of obedience and service, -- all your murmurings will be stilled, all your difficulties will be removed, all the perplexing problems that now confront you will be solved." *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing p.101*

"Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet." *Help in Daily Living p.13 (Ministry of Healing p.481)*

"When you surrender yourself entirely to God, when you fall all broken upon Jesus, you will be rewarded by a victory the joy of which you have never yet experienced." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 4 p.220*

"Will you not, without delay, place yourself in right relation to God? Will you not say, 'I will give my will to Jesus, and I will do it now,' and from this moment be wholly on the Lord's side?" *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 5 p.514*

Bibliography:

The King James version of the Holy Bible, 1611
Available at all Christian bookstores

SDA Bible Commentary, volumes 6 & 7A
Available by calling ABC at (800)765-6955 or Laymen Ministries at (800)245-1844.

The following books were written by Ellen G. White. They are available by calling ABC at (800)765-6955 or Laymen Ministries at (800)245-1844.

Christ's Object Lessons, 1900
Education, 1903
Gospel Workers, 1915
Help In Daily Living (Last 4 chapters of Ministry of Healing), 1964
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Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 1896

Suggested Reading:

Help In Daily Living (Last 4 chapters of Ministry of Healing), 1964
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