# **Surrender**

The topic of surrender is not popular. What do you think of when we use the word “surrender?” Are your thoughts and feelings towards surrender more positive or negative? Do you feel like surrendering today? What would surrender look like in your life? Read Luke 9:1-23 for context.

Luke 9: 23-26

*“23 And He was saying to [them] all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. 24 “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. 25 “For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? 26 “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and [the glory] of the Father and of the holy angels.”*

Luke 9:57-62

*“57 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air [have] nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” 59 And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” 60 But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” 61 Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” 62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

Matthew 19:16, 20-22

*“16 And someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?”...*

*20 The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?” 21 Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be complete, go [and] sell your possessions and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” 22 But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.”*

The reality is no person’s flesh (the self-sufficient mindset) wants to die. It wants to live in comfort and ease. The fleshly mindset wants what it wants and expects to get its way. This is our human default, and yet this is not the way of a Kingdom-minded believer. A Kingdom-minded believer understands that we must lose our life to find it. We must carry our cross daily.

The Church has taught these principles over the decades, but often in a legalistic and religious ways. Taking up our cross daily was often taught as our “duty.” This mindset is trying to apply an old-testament law mindset to a New Testament, New Covenant teaching. Remember, new wine doesn’t work in old wineskins (Luke 5:37-39). Instead, if we understand God’s heart for us and our marriage to the Lord, we recognize He’s calling us to deeper dependence upon Him. God’s requesting a greater trust in who He is and what He says. If God is really good and has good plans for us, why wouldn’t we trust Him? If God is telling us to lay something down, isn’t that for our benefit? If God tells us to pick something up, even if painful, doesn’t He have our best interests in mind?

Surrender is a critical topic for believers. It is required for God to be the Lord of our lives. If we are willing to have our expectations, rights, and ideas superseded by God’s, then we will be open to His guidance. If not, we will stay on the throne of our hearts.

We all have expectations: expectations that things will go our way, that people will behave and respond how we want, and that our lives will look a certain way. These “rights” need to be surrendered if we want to live out of the abundant life God has for us. Again, we’re not saying we must become a “doormat” to everyone else and live a terrible life. We’re talking about living a life surrendered moment by moment to the one who loves us and gave His life up for us (Eph 5:2).

One way to embrace a surrendered mindset is to experience ***Brokenness***. In short, brokenness is coming face-to-face with the reality of what happens when we try to run our own lives. When our inadequacies, weaknesses, and insecurities are exposed, we begin to experience brokenness. Consider how often people have said of drug addicts, “They won’t give it up until they hit rock bottom.” This is an example of brokenness. When the addict comes face to face with their own choices and the outcomes of those choices, they have the opportunity to become either embittered with greater resolve to “fix it” or to humble themselves and experience brokenness. The way of the Kingdom-minded believer is to humble ourselves that God might lift us up (James 4:10).

Brokenness is the process of realizing our inability to do life without Him. Surrender is humbling ourselves in those situations and allowing the Lord to exchange our weakness for His strength and our ways for his ways. Foundationally, this is about ***control***. Do I need to control everything, or do I believe God’s control (influence over) my life is superior? Do we really believe God will give us the desires of our heart (Psalm 37:4)? Do we believe that if we “lose our life,” we will “find it?”

What are some ways that you’ve seen control show up in your life?

Are there areas in your life where you’ve experienced brokenness?

Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to surrender anything in your life?