

July 12
Surrender, *Daily Disciple*, page 202



[Psalm 25:1-2](#)

[Acts 21:13-14](#)

Questions for Discussion:

1. How can we develop a trust and confidence in God so that we will want to run to Him first in times of trouble?
2. Give an example from your own life when you surrendered your anger and feelings of revenge to God's working.
3. List some ways in which God is our caring spiritual parent.
4. Ashley S. Johnson (founder of Johnson Bible College) maintains that God commits himself to us when we are helpless. Does our experience of helplessness change as we age?
5. Read the narrative in [Acts 21:1-16](#) about a "double-surrender": Paul's surrender to the cause of Christ (even to the point of death), and the people's surrender of their agenda for Paul's safety.
 - a. How does seeing Paul's commitment to the ultimate surrender to Christ relate to our own daily surrender to Christ?
 - b. Why is it so difficult for us to say, "The Lord's will be done"?
6. What other ideas do you have regarding why the idea of surrender is so hard for us to swallow?
7. Find and share other examples in Jesus' life where he surrendered his will.
8. Discuss the relationship between obedience and surrender.
9. Discuss Joseph's life of suffering. Is it hard to surrender to what looks like unjust suffering at the hands of people who want to do us harm?
10. Go back and look through chapters 41-50 of Genesis and list the verses and phrases that indicate Joseph's strong faith in God's involvement in his life even though God does not actively speak and intervene.
11. Why was Mary's attitude in her circumstances so astounding and amazing?
12. Nebuchadnezzar actually gives a prayer of praise and honor to God after his ordeal. Read [Daniel 4:34-35](#) and discuss what he learned about God following his forced "surrender" of living out in the pasture.
13. Can you recall a circumstance of forced "surrender" in your life and what you learned about God?
14. For you, what is the greatest blessing of surrender?
15. How have you expressed this amazing blessing to your children and grandchildren?

16. Think of the [1st and 2nd commandments](#). How does surrender play a part in keeping both of them?
17. Can you think of other songs in our songbook that express the theme of surrender?
18. What is your greatest need right now in your Christian life of surrender? What is the hardest thing for you to give up? How is this hindering your witness for Christ?

SURRENDER

The notion of “surrender” is a hard sell in our culture. Our historical identity and post Civil-War is replete with examples of armies and individuals who refused to surrender. The word itself carries several negative connotations. But for the Christian it is essential when dealing with our ego, pride, selfishness, lifestyle, relationship to God, and our ultimate destiny.

Christ’s example of surrender in the garden. I can think of no greater example of surrender than Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. His prayer, repeated three times, is indicative of the kind of process necessary for surrender to occur. Because of the impending suffering and the extreme agony of dying, along with bearing the weight of sinful humanity, Jesus did not relish going to the cross. But his obedience through suffering led him to give up his honor, position and privilege of being with the Father and come to earth to fulfill the divine plan for the redemption of humanity.

Joseph’s life and the suffering of surrender. There are many wonderful examples of surrender in the Old Testament. Take Joseph, for example. The surprising thing we learn in his life is that surrender sometimes leads to more suffering. But it is in his life that we see an ultimate trust he had in God working behind the scenes for him. From chapter 41 to 50 of Genesis, from Joseph’s being sold into slavery until his brothers finding out who he is, very little if any activity of God working on Joseph’s behalf is recorded. Joseph has a strong belief that God is working and has worked, though God himself does not speak nor actively intervene. Sometimes God’s greatest work is behind the scenes when we cannot see it.

The attitude of surrender. I find in Scripture fascinating examples of opposite attitudes toward surrender. When an angel came to Mary and revealed God’s plan about Jesus’ birth, her response was “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said” (Luke 1:38). Nebuchadnezzar, because of his pride, is forced by God to surrender his will and live for seven years out in the pasture like a cow. At the end of this experience, he honored and glorified God who lives forever (read [Daniel 4:28-37](#)). The attitude of surrender is significant in our relationship with God.

The blessings of surrender. What are the blessings of surrender? We find out in Hebrews 12:1-4 that for the joy set before him Jesus endured the pain and shame of the cross. It was the joy and delight of pleasing the Father that kept him going. Inner peace and joy are two blessings of surrender. Giving up the dominant force of fear and the urge to retaliate are replaced with assurance in God’s provisions. The greatest blessing is that it places us directly into God’s

care. We give up our need to control circumstances and people, and as a result, we are free to serve and to love.

Songs of surrender. Think about our songs that deal with surrender: “*I Surrender All*,” “*None of Self and All of Thee*.” Take a song book and look over the verses of these songs. What do they tell us about what we have been singing over the years regarding surrender? It is vital to our faith and practice to emulate the attitude of surrender we see in Jesus’ life by the power of God’s Spirit.