



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SURRENDER DAILY TO GOD?

Initial Surrender

Anyone who trusts in Jesus for salvation and turns away from their sinful lifestyle will submit to Jesus as Lord and surrender their entire lives to Him.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

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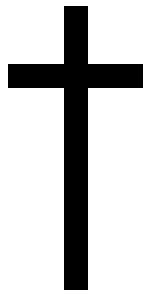
Daily Surrender

All believers will then embark on a lifelong journey of daily submission to Jesus. Christians will submit more and more of their life to God’s will as they mature in their faith and develop deeper spiritual maturity.

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Luke 9:23

How did Jesus’ followers view the cross?¹



- 1 “a symbol of humiliation” - victims of crucifixion were executed publicly while naked, it was the most humiliating form of death in Jesus’ culture
- 2 “a symbol of suffering” - as explored in chapter 10, crucifixion was not only humiliating but also a time of intense physical torment
- 3 “a symbol of death” - ultimately the cross symbolized death since nobody is known to have survived a Roman crucifixion

To take up your cross means to be willing to suffer pain, humiliation, and death as a result of following Jesus

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Andrew Murray²

The creature has not only to look back to the origin and first beginning of existence, and acknowledge that it there owes everything to God; it’s chief care, its highest virtue, its only happiness, now and through all eternity, is to present itself an empty vessel, in which God can dwell and manifest His power and goodness.

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WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SURRENDER DAILY TO GOD?



Jesus told us to

Jesus did not call His followers to lukewarm faithfulness but rather to authentic discipleship. His followers submitted to Jesus constantly and were willing to do anything for their leader and friend. This call to abandon all in order to follow Jesus is still in effect for Christians today.



We owe God everything

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, **in view of God’s mercy**, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Romans 12:1



Surrender humbles us

“Submit yourselves, then, to God... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

James 4:7,10



We take pleasure in surrendering to God

Even though daily surrender is difficult and dangerous, it ultimately brings about purpose and joy in our lives. We take pleasure in serving God and being used by God to bring Him glory, even if it means that we must sacrifice everything.



Daily surrender makes us more useful to God

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 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.”

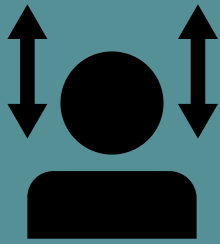
Romans 6:12-13



HOW CAN WE SURRENDER DAILY TO GOD?

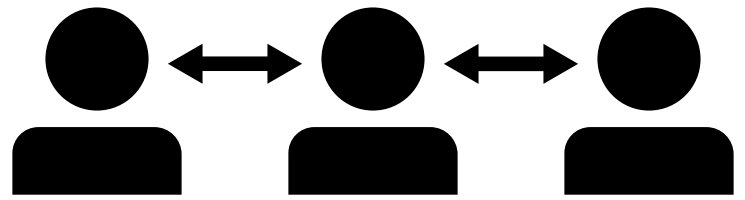
Seeking God's Help

Ultimately God will help us find the strength to deny ourselves and submit to His will. We must admit that if we rely on our own power, we cannot accomplish anything. We tend to pridefully, and foolishly, try to accomplish things out of our own power rather than using the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.



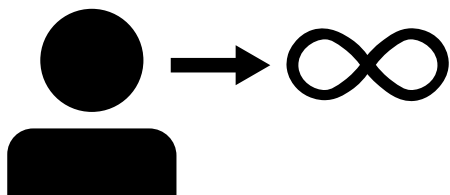
Seeking the Church's Help

God has given Christians a community of fellow believers to encourage, convict, strengthen, and hold one another accountable. Christians should turn to their local church for help in surrendering daily to God. The Christian life is not meant to be lonely, rather we are to embrace like-minded believers who want us to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and submitting to the will of God daily.



Having an eternal mindset

When we are engrossed in our life on earth and all that this life has to offer, we tend to find it more difficult to deny our desires and submit to God's will for our life. We tend to seek immediate comfort and joy rather than lasting comfort and joy which is the reason we choose to enjoy this life even if it means being disobedient to God and missing out on eternal rewards. When we view our lives on earth as temporary and in light of eternity, we will be more willing to submit to God's will (regardless of the cost) every single day.



Dwelling on spiritual truth

Finally, we should be spending time in the Word of God and dwell on the spiritual truths that cover its pages. For instance: we know that Jesus is supreme over all (Colossians 1:15-23), that He demands our full allegiance (Luke 9:23), that this life is temporary (Luke 12:13-21), and that we will be rewarded or punished for eternity based on the choices we make in this life (Matthew 25:31-46). As we ponder and apply these spiritual truths, how can we not submit to the will of God every day of our lives?

