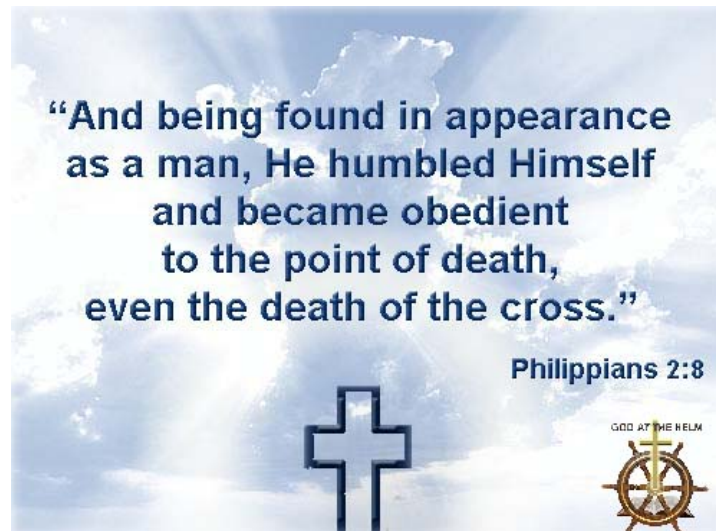


SURRENDERING TO GOD



To surrender is defined as to completely give up one's own will and submit to another authority. We know that in wars, the losing army ends up surrendering to the conqueror, and the surrender is not from the heart but under threat of force.

How does the bible define surrendering our lives to God? The history of the world gives us the two most extraordinary examples of full surrender to God's Will. Genesis 22 describes how God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, the son that he and Sarah had at a late age that God had promised them. Can we even imagine being faced with such a request by God, and how quickly would we surrender to God? Yet, the bible tells us that Abraham believed that God would resurrect Isaac and surrendered his will completely to God's request.

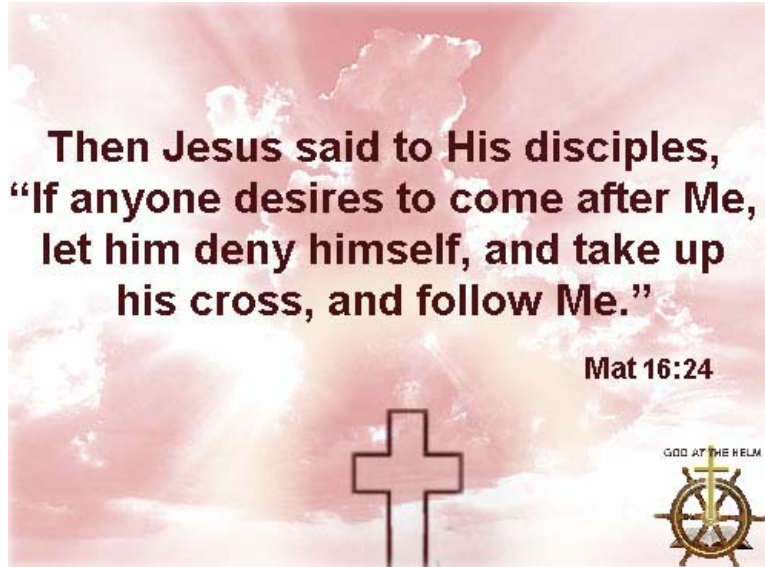
The rest of the story tells us clearly that what God desired wasn't the death of Isaac, but rather a complete surrender of the heart from Abraham, an image of what our Savior and Lord Jesus actually did for us.

I am convinced you know the second example is Jesus, who Himself being God in a human form, came to earth for a time, for the only purpose to save us, and who also completely surrendered His Will to the Father.

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**Then Jesus said to His disciples,
“If anyone desires to come after Me,
let him deny himself, and take up
his cross, and follow Me.”**

Mat 16:24



Have we ever heard anyone say that they have accepted Jesus, profess to be born again, yet their lives is in complete contrast to what the bible teaches? Do we understand the meaning of surrendering our lives to Christ so as to be accepted by God?

The reality is that we don't accept Jesus; rather God accepts us through the belief in Christ as savior, which encompasses the surrender of our will to God's. It translates into following Christ as He taught us, and also to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him!

Paul, in Hebrews 11:6 said: "For he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." In other words, the reward is the result of our belief through a complete surrender of our lives.

Jesus defined it as clear as crystal; "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) If we think that believing is a mere statement, we might fool people, even ourselves; however, we sure won't fool God and Christ. Another important command of Jesus is, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (John 14:15) Have we surrendered our life to God, yet?

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“And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

Romans 6:13



What is involved in surrendering our lives to Christ? Does religion solve the problem? The prophet Jeremiah gave us a clear definition of what surrendering to God is: “O LORD, I know the way of man *is* not in himself; *It is* not in man who walks to direct his own steps.” (Jer. 10:23) In essence, he says that we can’t trust ourselves or man, and must let God direct our steps, our very life, so that we live according to God’s will.

Paul, in Romans 12:1-2 gave us a definition of what surrendering to God and Christ mean; “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

So, in clear terms, it is to reject sin and the temptations of the world, and to feed our minds with his Word, that we may know what the perfect Will of God is, and so apply it to our lives. We’re to glorify God in our body and in our spirit, which Christ bought at a great price. Consequently, as James said, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

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**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation;
old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.”**

2 Cor. 5:17



What is the evidence in a person's life that demonstrates total surrender to the will to God through Christ? As well, how does a person's life testimony reflect the light of Christ?

Jesus told Nicodemus that in order to inherit the Kingdom of God, one has to be born again. Imagine the surprise when this Pharisee was told that he must be reborn! In essence, Jesus described what the new life in God through Christ implies. We're not to continue living as before, but through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit, we're to start a new life spiritually with God in the lead.

Think about the apostles, who with the exception of John were all martyred, and through their testimony have left us with such a rich account of God's Word through the books of the bible. They lived and died to point us to the way to God! Didn't their surrender to God even unto death, show us the true evidence of lives changed?

While we might not come under such cruel trials, Paul laid out for us what is the true evidence of surrender to God: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Gal 2:20)

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**“Not everyone who says to Me,
‘Lord, Lord,’
shall enter the kingdom of heaven,
but he who does
the will of My Father in heaven.”**

Matthew 7:21



Throughout His 3 year ministry on this earth, Jesus brought countless warnings about hypocrisy. He called the Pharisees rightfully whitewash tombs. Consistently as well, Jesus warned people about the deceptions of the enemy who tries continuously to deceive us into thinking we're all right, that it's OK to give in to the flesh, that no matter what, God will receive us into eternal life because "we accepted Jesus".

Jesus gave us a clear parable with the 10 virgins, five of which were wise and the other five foolish. Yet, while they were all virgins, only the five wise ones made it to the wedding banquet, while the other ones got a shut door. James said, "But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22) He added in James 4:8: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded."

Following and surrendering our lives to Christ consists in much more than making statements, but rather it requires putting our heart and actions where our mouth is. Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Mat 6:19-21)

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