

A Life Totally Surrendered to God

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus.

Those of you know me will know that I have a love and a passion for music generally; it has always been that way. As a Christian musician, I have a deep love and passion for Christian music in particular. Many praise and worship songs that we sing speak directly or indirectly about *surrendering to God*.

- I surrender All to you.
- All to Jesus I surrender.
- Here's my life Lord, you can have it all.
- Withholding nothing, I surrender all to you.
- Tauren Wells sings a worship song entitled: **You are my life**.

One of the likely reasons that songs about surrender are such a major feature in Christian communities is because for every single one of us, our relationship with Christ started the day we decided to **surrender** our lives to Christ, to become followers of Jesus Christ. Every song we sing about **surrender** reminds us about the day we formed the most important relationship in our lives, our relationship with Christ.

And so, I would like to start this message with a comparison between some of the typical features of **a Life Totally surrendered to God** and contrast that against a Life that is not.

As I go through this message and as we look at different scriptures in the Bible you can think back to this table and to these comparisons.

Let us begin.

Totally Surrendered to God

1. I am surrendered **always**.

Not Fully Surrendered to God

I have **moments** where I am not surrendered.

(This is the key, this is the crux of the total surrender issue, this is the hardest part and the easiest place to slip up, and this needs constant monitoring and self-evaluation / introspection)

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| 2. I am implicitly obedient to God's instruction. | I Have moments of disobeying what God told me to do or where He told me to go or what He told me to say. |
| 3. Taking everything to God in prayer. | Taking it back from God.
Only taking certain things to God in prayer. |
| 4. Making God my Plan A and B. | Making plans on the side in case my God-Plan fails. |
| 5. Believing the impossible can be done. | Only trusting God to a certain point of possibility. |
| 6. Making God's Words your words. | Relying on your ability to persuade (gift of the gab). |
| 7. Trusting God to add the increase. | Becoming frustrated when you don't see evidence of the increase. |
| 8. Waiting for God to promote you. | Self-promotion by any means necessary. |
| 9. I know God is my source and I act accordingly. | I turn to other sources for help, even ungodly ones. |
| 10. I don't compromise on Godly standards. | I am willing to take short cuts, pay bribes, slide cash under the table. |
| 11. I answer to one Master, one Savior. | I answer to whoever calls the loudest. |
| 12. He is Lord and has dominion and access to every part of my life, even the ugly and broken pieces. (no part is out of bounds) | I keep certain parts of my life away from God.
(well, I foolishly think that I can) |
| 13. I surrender my will to God's will. | I still want to do it my way. |
| 14. What's mine is God's to use. | I want God's stuff but what's mine is mine. |
| 15. I let go and let God. | I hold on, trying to do it in my own strength. |
| 16. I live and walk by the Spirit. | I live and walk by the flesh. |
| 17. My body belongs HOLY to God. | I have not fully surrendered my body to Christ. |

With any behavior that I want to introduce or work on in my life, my starting point is to always try to find someone in the Bible whose actions I can mirror, whose heart I can mirror, whose attitude I can mirror. And a not too bad example to follow is always the example of Jesus.

1. Jesus surrenders His Will to the Will of the Father

Luke 22:40-42

Amplified Bible

40 When He arrived at the place [called Gethsemane], He said to them, “Pray continually that you may not fall into temptation.” 41 And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup [of divine wrath] from Me; yet **not My will, but [always] Yours be done.**”

Let us all just understand something, when Jesus prayed: **not My will, but [always] Yours be done, He was not praying about a light-hearted topic.** Sometimes my wife will ask me what I want for supper, do I want pap and gravy or do I want samp and beans. And my answer is sometimes, “anything love, it’s up to you, whatever you want. Not my will but your will be done.”

This was not that kind of prayer, this was a prayer in the context of being humiliated, tortured and crucified on a cross and dying an agonizing death. In that context, he was able to surrender his own will to the will of the Father.

I asked myself, how do you get to this point, where you are living so fully surrendered to God the Father? Does this happen overnight, by chance, is this a once-off perhaps or is this something that has to be a result of this being your normal daily life and normal daily habit that you develop over years?

John 5:19

Amplified Bible

19 So Jesus answered them by saying, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself [of His own accord], unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for **whatever things the Father does, the Son [in His turn] also does in the same way.**

John 5:30

Amplified Bible

30 “I can do nothing on my own initiative or authority. Just as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just (fair, righteous, unbiased), because **I do not seek My own will, but only the will of Him who sent Me.**

In summary, Jesus lived a life where it was normal for him to only carry out the will of the Father and to only do what He sees the Father do and only say what he hears the Father say.

So when he prayed about his own death, he could pray in the same manner as he had lived his daily life, fully surrendered to the will of the Father.

If Jesus took something as significant and as serious as the crucifixion to the Father in prayer, what should we take to God in prayer? Should we only take it to God in prayer if it is very serious, weighty, and important? Does God not want me to sweat Him about the small stuff?

2. What should I take to God in Prayer?

Philippians 4:6

Amplified Bible

6 Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in **everything [every circumstance and situation]** by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God.

God wants me to include Him in **every area of my life**. The big things as well as the small things; the important life changing things as well as the mundane things. If I am fully surrendered I need to bring everything to God in prayer and then also learn to not take things back.

We often pray:

“Lord I have come to the end of my rope, I tried everything and everyone else and now I am coming to you, please help me Lord, I don’t know what else to do or where else to turn,” ... and the next day we are at it again, trying to make our own Plan B, C and D.

3. After You pray, he will answer, what comes after he answers must be obedience.

1 Samuel 15:22

Amplified Bible

22 Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great a delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as **in obedience to the voice of the Lord?**

Behold, to **obey** is better than sacrifice,

And to heed [is better] than the fat of rams.

Sometimes I wonder if we are expecting God to answer us when we pray or do we think we are inventing a new form of conversation where there is no response from the other side. It is only one-way traffic. I have news for you, in case you did not know, He is a God who answers prayer. If you are living a fully surrendered life his expectation is that when he answers you will OBEY.

4. It does not matter what people call you, what matters is who you answer to.

John 10:27-28

King James Version

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

What a beautiful passage of scripture. If I could amend it I would only add the words: FULLY SURRENDERED>

My (FULLY SURRENDERED SHEEP)

- a) hear my voice;
- b) I know them;
- c) they follow me;
- d) they live forever; and
- e) no demon in hell can pluck them out of my hand.

Lord make me a Fully Surrendered Sheep!!! Don't make me a super star or a world famous this that or the other Make me a Fully Surrendered Sheep!!!

5. When I am living a Fully Surrendered Life: What's mine is God's to use, no matter how seemingly small, ordinary or insignificant.

Exodus 4: 1-5

New King James Version

Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.' "

2 So the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

He said, "A rod." 3 And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. 4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), 5 "that they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

In this passage of scripture we see how God used Moses' **walking stick** because Moses was surrendered, obedient and did what God told him to do. We already spoke about how obedience to God's words/instruction is a crucial part of living a surrendered life. This is yet another example to emphasise the importance of being obedient to God's words.

6. Why does it matter to whom I am surrendered?

Romans 6:16

Amplified Bible

16 Do you not know that when you continually offer yourselves to someone to do his will, **you are the slaves of the one whom you obey**, either [slaves] of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness (right standing with God)?

There are consequences attached to who/what I am obeying, but either way I am always obeying either Satan or God. Friendship with the world means enmity with God.

This is especially for (but not only for) the young people:

7. Why is it important to surrender my body to God and not just my heart and mind?

Romans 6:13

Amplified Bible

13 Do not go on offering members of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness. But offer yourselves to God [in a decisive act] as those alive [raised] from the dead [to a new life], and your members [all of your abilities—sanctified, set apart] as instruments of righteousness [**yielded**] to God.

Being **fully surrendered** means every part of my body is an instrument of righteousness, sanctified, set apart, raised to a new life in Christ Jesus, Amen.

Romans 6:19

Amplified Bible

19 I am speaking in [familiar] human terms because of your natural limitations [your spiritual immaturity]. For just as you presented your bodily members as slaves to impurity and to [moral] lawlessness, leading to further lawlessness, so now offer your members [your abilities, your talents] as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification [that is, being set apart for God's purpose].

8. I should live a fully surrendered life because it is not My Life any longer.

Galatians 2:20

New International Version

20 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.

Matthew 10:39

New International Version

39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

In Him we live and move and have our being.

Now that I am convinced that I need to live a surrendered life ...

What do I need to Surrender?

Answer:

9. Surrender Everything. Let Go and Let God Be Mighty.

Surrender is literally giving up all control. It is telling God that we are not big enough to deal with our worries, and He must take over. When we finally let go of all of our worries, we give God room to wield His mighty arm in our lives. When our hands are weak and tired, God's hands are strong and powerful!

Psalm 89:13

New Living Translation

Powerful is your arm! Strong is your hand!

Your right hand is lifted high in glorious strength.

If I do anything less than surrendering EVERYTHING, I am by definition NOT Fully Surrendered. I am NOT allowing God to be strong where I am weak.

When I said Yes to Sally Ann, I said NO to every other woman on the face of the planet. I am not halfway married or partially married. I am not married during the week and single on weekends.

If you would not want a partially committed spouse, why do you think God would be happy with your partially surrendered Christian life?

There is no parent who wishes that their child would only obey them some of the time; or that their child would only share some of the details of their life with them; or that when they are given an instruction that their child only partially carries out the instructions as given by them as a parent. Why do we expect it to be ok for Father God?

The final and most compelling reason why we should live our lives fully surrendered to God is because ultimately He formed us and knows us better than anyone else. He knows exactly what we need and his thoughts towards us are precious.

Psalm 139:13-18

Amplified Bible

13 For You formed my innermost parts;

You knit me [together] in my mother's womb.

14 I will give thanks and praise to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works,

And my soul knows it very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You,

When I was being formed in secret,

And intricately and skillfully formed [as if embroidered with many colors] in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;

And in Your book were all written

The days that were appointed for me,

When as yet there was not one of them [even taking shape].

17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

18 If I could count them, they would outnumber the sand.

When I awake, I am still with You.