

Seeking Revival

DAY 3—WE MUST SURRENDER

“Brothers and sisters, God has shown you his mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him in the right way.” ROMANS 12:1

My Life Experience

I was a businessman, age 36, when a friend who was a pastor suddenly died at age 41. This made me question: What would happen if God called me to become a pastor? I did not want this. For a whole week I argued and complained to God—morning, noon, and night. I explained to Him how I could serve Him in other ways. However, God was accepting my protests, and as I kneeled down by my bed I had no more objections, and I thought: God loves you! Then I thought, Yes, I believe this.

After a few minutes, trust in God’s love led me to completely surrender myself. Then I had peace. And one and a half years later, the Lord did call me to become a pastor. Years later, I am still so thankful to Him. It was God’s forever love and wisdom that showed me a completely (all) different way than I could imagine. Now I see that this surrender (give in to Jesus) gave me great blessings in my life. God led me the best possible way.

Why Surrender?

As Garrie F. Williams writes, “Full surrender is important to salvation, to becoming a new person (born-again), to winning against sin and temptation, and to having more of the Holy Spirit” (How to be Filled With the Holy Spirit and Know It). We cannot focus on this encouraging message enough.

The same as I needed to surrender myself before God could fully use me, the apostle Paul needed to give up his old life and plans when God called him on the road to Damascus. In his letter to the Romans, Paul later advised believers to “give your bodies as a living sacrifice” and “give every part of yourself to God to do what is right” (Romans 12:1; 6:13).

Many people have not surrendered themselves to God (often because of ignorance). Instead they try to control of their own lives, but they do not have the power of the Holy Spirit, which gives us all of God’s other spiritual gifts. “But like every other promise, [the Holy Spirit] is given with requirements. There are many who believe and say they accept the Lord’s promise; they talk about Christ and about the Holy Spirit, but they receive no benefit (value). They do not surrender their lives to be lead and controlled by God’s will” (The Desire of Ages, p. 672).

As humans we do not want to give up our freedom, but God’s desire for us is for our best benefit: “God wants to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire change (all), a whole new character, we must give ourselves fully to Him” (Steps to Christ, p. 43).

A life of sin is not as free as we think. “Everyone who refuses to give themselves to God is under the control of Satan. Their life is not their own. They may talk about freedom, but they are slaves. They are not allowed to see the beauty of truth, because their minds are under the control of Satan. While they think that they are

following their own judgment, they really are obeying the will of Satan. Christ came to free us from sin and slavery” (The Desire of Ages, p. 466).

What do we lose by giving our life to Christ? Jesus is able to free us from ourselves and our sins—from envy (jealousy), hatred, arguing, greed (selfishness), addiction, anger, pride, big-headedness, discouragement, feeling not important, and more. Remember, every human being is his or her own biggest problem. You are your own biggest problem. “There is the highest freedom when a person surrenders to Christ” (The Desire of Ages, p. 466).

A potter can only work with the clay that is in his hands. That is why we need to give ourselves to God. “Surrendering (giving our life) all our powers to God makes the problems of life much easier. Surrendering ourselves to God reduces the temptations of our human hearts” (My Life Today, p. 6).

Only surrender leads to continuing joy. “Those who trust Jesus and surrender their souls to His care, their lives to His plans, will find peace and calm. Nothing in the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them happy by His presence. In perfect surrender there is perfect rest” (The Desire of Ages, p. 331). [Jesus invites you today to experience His perfect rest!](#)

Praying God's Word

Show Your love through our lives.

“Don't give any part of yourself to serve sin. Don't let any part of yourself be used to do evil. Instead, give yourselves to God. You have been brought from death to life. So give every part of yourself to God to do what is right” (Romans 6:13).

Lord, we want to give You every part of our lives. Use us to show for Your glory.

Help us to live our lives in worship of You.

“Brothers and sisters, God has shown you his mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to him as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and real worship” (Romans 12:1).

Father, thank You so much for inviting us to become new creations (a new person). Show us how to give ourselves daily to You without holding anything back. Help us follow you in all things by Your strength.

Protect us from the evil one (Satan).

“We know that those who are children of God do not continue sinning. The Son of God keeps them safe. The evil one cannot hurt them” (1 John 5:18).

Lord, thank You for promising to protect us from the evil one when we surrender to You. Lead us on Your path to perfect joy.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to give wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the work of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for the needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: I Surrender All (#309); Have Thine Own Way, Lord (#567); Take My Life and Let It Be (#330); Under His Wings (#529); It Is Well (#530); Just as I Am (#313).