

Absolute Surrender

February 11, 2018

Matthew 6:9-13 NASB

9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'

10 'YOUR KINGDOM COME. YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.'

11 'Give us this day our daily bread.'

12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.'

13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'

The purpose of prayer is to have the Kingdom (authority) of God, and the sovereign will and purposes of God, flow through us and our lives fluidly with no resistance, just as there is no resistance in heaven.

- *"Just as a servant knows that he must first obey his master in all things, so the surrender to an implicitly and unquestionable obedience must become the essential characteristic of our lives." —Andrew Murray*
- *"Is there a thing beneath the sun,
That strives with thee my heart to share?
Ah! tear it thence, and reign alone,
The Lord of every motion there!"
—John Wesley, 1736*

The purpose of prayer is never for God to fulfill my will, my dreams, my desires, my ambitions, my life-goals. The purpose of prayer is absolute surrender to God's will; for Him to accomplish in me whatsoever He ordains.

- *In the American consumerism of professional ministry, we have forgotten Who is Master and who is slave, Who is the Potter and who is the clay.*
- *The religion that sells is the religion that appeals to the will and pride of man. Denying self and taking up one's cross has no popular appeal and generates no large-scale following.*
- *Success is addictive and irresistible to the flesh.*
- *God does not need, nor does He speak through human platforms of earthly success. God speaks through broken vessels with surrendered hearts.*
- *Any personal ambition, goal, dream, desire or agenda that is not completely dismantled and surrendered in prayer is an idol before the Lord.*
- *The selfish prayer will never experience the heart of God; it is too preoccupied with its own desires and will.*

Matthew 16:24 ESV

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

- *Absolute surrender is required by God; He accepts nothing less.*
- *Denying self goes much deeper than just saying "no" to yourself in self-discipline. It is the rejection of self-will and all manifestations of the self-life. It is assuming an adversarial posture against the self-life.*
- *Deny (aparneomai) to utterly disown, abstain, to affirm that one has no connection to someone.*
- *"It is the great moment of our lives when we decide that sin must die right out, not be curbed or suppressed or counteracted, but crucified." -- Oswald Chambers*

Galatians 5:25 NASB

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk (stoicheō - keep in step, proceed as the march of a soldier, direct one's life) **by the Spirit.**

- *Absolute surrender is walking step by step, hour by hour, minute by minute, decision by decision, in step and conformity to the direction and flow of the Holy Spirit.*
- *"No one can sum up all God is able to accomplish through one solitary life, wholly yielded, adjusted, and obedient to Him." —Dwight L. Moody*

Romans 8:14 ESV

14 For all who are led (agō - to lead by laying hold of, to attach one's self, to conduct, to carry, to bring, to move, to impel) **by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**

- *ONLY by absolute surrender do we experience the supernatural power of God.*
- *"The first thing that accounts for God's using D. L. Moody so mightily was that he was a fully surrendered man. Every ounce of that two-hundred-and-eighty-pound body of his belonged to God; everything he was and everything he had, belonged wholly to God." —R. A. Torrey*

Matthew 11:29 ESV

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- *To take Jesus' yoke is to have Him choose the work, the field, the pace, the time, the method and the direction we go.*
- *ONLY by absolute surrender do we experience true rest, peace and contentment. Thinking that those things come by achieving our will and our desires is a devilish lie.*
- *"I was converted in November, 1825, but I only came into the full surrender of the heart four years later, in July, 1829. The love of money was gone, the love of place was gone, the love of position was gone, the love of worldly pleasures and engagements was gone. God, God alone became my portion. I found my all in Him; I wanted nothing else. And by the grace of God this has remained, and has made me a happy man, an exceedingly happy man, and it led me to care only about the things of God. I ask affectionately, my beloved brethren, have you fully surrendered the heart to God, or is there this thing or that thing with which you are taken up irrespective of God?" —George Mueller, in an address to ministers and workers after his 90th birthday*

Romans 12:1-2 ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice [upon God's altar], **holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship** (latreia - service, worship, ministration of sacred services to God).

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- *"If we are the sheep of His pasture, remember that sheep are headed for the altar." —Jim Elliot*
- *The source of all evil and death, the source of all discontentment and covetousness, the source of all striving, abuse and violence, the source of all malice and destruction, is the absence of absolute surrender to God.*
- *Only in the absolute surrender to God as living sacrifices do we find what truly satisfies and brings life, what is truly good and acceptable and perfect.*

Matthew 16:25-26 ESV

25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

- *If only we would cling to Jesus as tightly as we cling to our life, our plans, our ambitions.*
- *"Let God have your life; He can do more with it than you can." —D.L. Moody*
- *"If my life is surrendered to God, all is well. Let me not grab it back, as though it were in peril in His hand but would be safer in mine!" —Elisabeth Elliot*
- *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." —Jim Elliot*

Absolute and complete surrender is impossible for us to achieve. It comes only by persevering and remaining constant in prayer. It is a spiritual battle that only be fought and won in the Holy Spirit.

"My heart's desire and delight, O God, is absolute surrender, but I cannot perform it. It is impossible for me to live that life. It is beyond me.' Fall down and learn that when you are utterly helpless, God will come to work in you not only to will, but also to do." — Andrew Murray, Absolute Surrender

Matthew 26:36-44 ESV

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."

37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."

39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour?"

41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

- *If Jesus' will died hard, how much harder does our will die?*

- *Prayer is where your will is broken and your heart surrendered, giving birth to obedience.*
- *Prayer is not getting God to accomplish our will, but prayer is surrendering our will to accomplish His will.*

1 Corinthians 15:30-31 ESV

30 Why are we in danger every hour?

31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!

- *Paul denied himself every day of the primal instinct to survive, to be liked and accepted.*

If we don't pray with a surrendered heart and will, then we will "hear" what we want to hear and will pray according to our idols.

Ezekiel 14:1-5 ESV

1 Then certain of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me.

2 And the word of the LORD came to me:

3 "**Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them?**

4 Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, **I the LORD will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols,**

5 that **I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols.**

Self-will can be as crafty, as seductive, as beguiling as the serpent in the Garden. His lies can seem so good and so right! Satan will even craft his lies to quote the Bible.

Matthew 16:21-23 ESV

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

22 And **Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."**

23 But he turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind me, Satan!** You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

In prayer, we not only find the strength to surrender our will, but we find the One who makes such surrender worth it all.

Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,** and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**