



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Freedom is only found in surrender

It was upon Peter and John's release from the authorities that they burst onto the scene with the early Church. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, they moved in power to advance God's Kingdom and the hope of Jesus. Sometimes we get lost in our struggles, pain, our misguided goals, and our past. These things threaten to keep us enslaved to the things which Jesus died to free us from. In Jesus we are released from the power these things have on us and our release should propel us into confident active trust.

Surrendering to God is a daily, moment-by-moment choice. The enemy seeks every new day to cloud our mind with worries, doubts, and fears. The devil wants there to be not room left for God in our lives. Surrendering to God becomes a lifestyle of daily giving it all to Him.

Whenever negative thoughts seek to invade our space, we must cut them off and give them to God immediately. God's mercies are new every morning, so what happened yesterday, last year or a decade ago is completely gone. Carrying the past around will only take up space for God's goodness, grace, and favor. Renewing our mind in Christ means letting go of all the burdens He died to take from [EF1] [KS2] us.

Five arenas of our life are the starting places of surrender - of letting go.... Consider how you can further let go.

- Surrender - Control
 - Control is the hardest thing to give up because without it we feel vulnerable. But we do not need to worry. God is already in control. We need to recognize His authority and move over to let Him lead. He is the Creator of the Universe, so we can trust Him with each day. Letting go is scary at first, but the freedom in our mind and hearts will be worth it. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose - Romans 8:28
- Surrender - Worry
 - Worry adds not a single day to our lives. In fact, worry oppresses us every second. Worry can literally affect not only our minds and hearts but our bodies too. Worry does absolutely nothing positive. Surrender worry to God and watch your life float in His favor. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. - Philippians 4:6



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- Surrender - Money
 - We tend to hold tightly to our money. However, God wants to take the reins of our money. Money can become an idol if we place it ahead of God. God wants to bless us, so we need to put our finances in the proper place: In God's Hands. God will take care of us. We simply need to surrender our money and obey His leading. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5
- Surrender - Your Relationships
 - Surrendering to God's sovereign will in our relationships shows that we trust Him with the people we care about. We can't possibly be everyone's savior and hero, but Jesus can. He died because He loves all of us, including the people most precious to us. We can do everything in our power to love and care for those entrusted to us and trust God with the rest. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? - Matthew 6:30
- Surrender - Your Future
 - We can only change one day at a time. Living in the future robs us from the joy of today. Each day is a gift, and we miss it when we allow our minds to dwell on all the unknowns. We can trust God with our future, so we can focus on today. Trying to control the future is like trying to control the wind. Contentment in today will prevent our eyes from wandering off to tomorrow. "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." Matthew 6:34
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Jesus has set you free.

Take a step of trust and Obedience today.