

BREAKING FREE 3 – Freedom in Surrender

THE PARADOX

All the SIGNALS, everything the WORLD teaches you, even LOGIC would suggest freedom couldn't possibly be found in SURRENDERING to another. But actually, the ONLY path to TRUE freedom is in surrender to GOD (Luke 9:23).

→ *What does culture teach us not to give away? What does it suggest we should be aiming for instead?*

→ *What is the paradoxical nature of the 'upside-down' kingdom teaching about surrender, self-denial, sufficiency? Why is 'losing' key to 'winning'?*

WHY don't we surrender?

1. Surrender is COUNTER-CULTURAL.

2. PRIDE says 'NO!'

3. Do we REALLY TRUST God?

→ *How is it counter-cultural? Why is the worldly view that surrender is a sign of weakness? How does it encourage self-sufficiency & independence?*

→ *Why does pride say 'No?' What does it say instead?*

→ *Why is trust right at the heart of this? What do we need to trust God with & why will we refuse to surrender if we do not?*

DEFINITION

Most dictionary definitions describe surrender as a yielding or submitting through force or conquest, probably to an adversary or enemy, because they've proved to be bigger & stronger ... and perhaps that's why our flesh doesn't like it.

Surrender is the INTENTIONAL, WILLING act of YIELDING your life, heart, will, desires & dreams to the Lord, giving Him the ABSOLUTE RIGHT to lead, control & demand as He purposes.

Full Surrendering entails

i) Surrendering your HEART: All your desires, affections & priorities.

ii) Surrendering your WILL: *"Not My will, but Yours be done."*

iii) Surrendering your PLANS: Trusting God's direction over your ambitions & dreams.

iv) Surrendering your POSSESSIONS: Not giving it all away, but holding it lightly with open hands.

→ *What does it mean to surrender your i) Heart, ii) Will, iii) Plans & iv) Possessions? Do you find each of those hard or easy? Why?*

→ *What do Rom 12:1, James 4:7 & Job 22:21-22 teach us about surrender?*

Surrender IS NOT	Surrender IS
Being forced or manipulated into submission	Wilful yielding to God's authority
One-time emotional experience	Daily decision to trust & obey
Punishment or burden	Act of worship & love
Giving up control away carelessly	Handing control to someone infinitely greater & wiser
Blindly following religion or rules	Surrendering to a Person who loves you
Loss of identity or personality	Freedom from sin & self
Miserable existence of constant sacrifice	Gateway to true peace & joy
Settling for less	Stepping into abundantly more
Sign of weakness or failure	Act of courage & faith
Passive resignation	Active trust & obedience
Suppression of dreams & gifts	Alignment with God's purpose & design
Retreat from responsibility	Step into spiritual maturity

→ *Is this how you see surrender?*

Which of the 'surrender is not' statements are the leading causes of people's reluctance to surrender to the Lord?

Which of the 'surrender is' statements have made more appealing the thought of surrendering even the hardest parts to the Lord?

Why does RESISTANCE sentence you to SLAVERY?

As a Christian, there will never be BLESSING in resistance or rebellion. It DISGUISES itself as freedom, but ENSLAVES you in the end.

→ *Where does resistance inevitably take you & why? How does it disguise itself as freedom? Why is its inevitable end point enslavement instead?*

3 Quick Thoughts (Rom 6:16, Matt 6:24)

i) We were CREATED to worship & serve.

ii) If we do not surrender to CHRIST, we will, BY DEFAULT, surrender to SOMETHING ELSE.

iii) You inevitably become SUBJECT to, SLAVES of the thing you SERVE, the one you OBEY.

→ *How does the thing you pursue potentially make you a slave? What might that slavery look like? How does the thing you surrender to act like a slave-master & what does it demand of you?*

The Freedom found in Surrender

- * True freedom is not the absence of BOUNDARIES; it's the presence of the structure that leads to a correctly CALIBRATED, divinely ALIGNED life.
→ *Why do people rebel against boundaries?*
What is the 'structure' that leads to right calibration & alignment?
- * True freedom is not simply doing WHAT you WANT, but BEING who were CREATED to be.
→ *Why is doing exactly what you 'want' a deception / illusion / sugar-coated lie that will lead you into bondage rather than freedom?*
What were you 'created to be,' in this context?
- * #1 Reason = True surrender ENDS THE WAR (Job 22:21, James 4:7).
→ *Why is this statement the crux of the matter? What war?*
- * QUIT fighting, cease the RESISTANCE, give EVERYTHING to God and you will FINALLY be FREE.

TEST CASE: The Bondage of ANXIETY

Why does it produce bondage?

- * Stems from lack of TRUST.
- * As we ENTERTAIN our FEARS, they MAGNIFY & start to TAKE OVER.
- * Before we know it, we're at its MERCY.
→ *What makes you anxious & why? How does anxiety build & where does it take you if it's unconstrained? What's the worst-case scenario?*

How do we get free?

ANS: SURRENDER it ALL to GOD.

(Phil 4:6-7, Prov 3:5-6, John 14:1)

- *Why is surrender the key? Look up these three verses for clues.*
- i) You can surrender, because you can trust God's CHARACTER.
 - ii) ... because you can trust God has the RESOURCES to deliver on His promises.
 - iii) ... because you can trust God's TRACK RECORD: Time & time again, God has proven His faithfulness.
 - iv) ... because you can trust God's HEART: His unfailing love for you has been proved, once & for all.
 - v) ... because you can trust God INTENTIONS towards you (Jer 29:11).
→ *Why do each of these 5 statements contribute to accepting God's trustworthiness?*
How, when you really embrace them & fully surrender, does that lead to a change in the way you respond to God & ultimately into new degrees of freedom?

RESPONSE

Here are the BIG Qs to take to the Lord

- * Where do you not yet trust Him?
- * What are you still holding onto?
- * What corners of your life have you not yet fully surrendered?

REMEMBER: The chains are the clues, examining the anxiety will betray the source, falling to your knees starts the process & letting God in is always the answer.

How can your connect group pray for you?