

Celebrate Recovery  
Mr. Howard, Christian Recovery Minister

## Surrender

Did you know that even Jesus Christ surrendered? **Mark 14:36 36** *“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*

Surrendering is the first major requirement of recovery and of healing, what we are talking about is your **free will**. Lets face a fact, you have been operating under your self will, following your plan determining what you will do—how did that work out for you? Steps 1-3 are all about you and God, and your relationship with Him.

Step 1: We admitted we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable.

*“For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.” (Romans 7:18)*

Step 2: We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

*“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” (Philippians 2:13)*

Step 3: We made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God.

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” (Romans 12:1)*

These steps are easier said than done, this takes the power of Jesus Christ through the Holy spirit to make you a new creation, a new person. 2 Corinthians 5:17 **Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!**. Pray at least 2 times each day. Heavenly Father I give my thanks to you as my creator, my savior and my mighty counselor. I ask you Jesus to be my savior, to forgive me of my sins and to help me become a new creation in you. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen

Pastor Howard

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**5 Things You Can Do that will Help You Surrender to God’s Will**

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### Sharing is caring!

One of the hardest sentences in my life has been...

***“Lord, not my will but Yours be done.”***

In fact, I’ve had more than a few times when I’ve gone into and through circumstances both kicking and screaming!

Surrender is a word that used to terrify me.

I’m guessing I’m not alone.

It’s not easy to give up and give in to the Sovereign God of the Universe because doing so requires...

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**Trusting that God is who He says He is.**

**Believing He is able to do what He says He will do.**

**Living in peace knowing His love is greater than any circumstances.**

I'll admit it's easier to surrender to God's will when life is easy and He's working in ways that please me. It's harder when I can't understand my current situation and the road ahead looks hard.

Maybe like me, you want to do better and face each day in obedience without fighting to get your own way.

If so, I believe this will help you like it's helping me.

### ***5 Things You Can Do that will Help You Surrender to God's Will***

#### **1. TRUST GOD'S LOVE**

It's hard for me to follow someone who doesn't want what's best for me and since the Garden of Eden, Satan has used whatever he can to get people to doubt God's love.

Have you ever heard a child say "you don't love me" to a parent's "no?" Yet the job of a loving parent isn't to make their children happy, it's to do what is best to help them grow and mature.

I'm learning that as my loving Heavenly Father, God is at work in my life helping me grow and mature in faith and love.

And...

*God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:9–10*

That is HUGE love!

#### **2. LET GO OF WORRY AND SURRENDER IN FAITH**

If worry was an Olympic sport, I'd have a trophy case of medals. The list of things I've worried about is too long for this space. I'd memorized the verse "don't worry about tomorrow" as a child — but applying it seemed beyond my anxiety overwhelm.

But I'm not doing tomorrow right now. I living today! It took several major crises before I finally learned that I just needed God to help me through this moment and trust Him to give me what I need in the next. That's living through faith...

Believing God will meet each need one moment at a time!

*Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And if worry can't accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things? Luke 12:25–26*

#### **3. LET GO OF THE PAST AND SURRENDER TO GOD'S HEALING GRACE**

Dwelling on the past is as much of a problem as worrying about the future.

In Christ Jesus, God has completely forgiven the past. I'm learning to trust Him and lean into His grace and mercy.

Part of my surrendering means going to God in prayer asking Him to forgive my past and give me all I need to forgive those who hurt me. When you and I focus on regret and revenge we cannot surrender. Those two things will always rob us of God's peace and joy.

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*“Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18–19*

**4. LET GO OF IMPATIENCE AND SURRENDER TO GOD’S TIMING**

I’m not good at waiting ... lines, doctor’s offices, etc. I have a schedule to follow. You too?!

But the truth is, there is no peace when I’m tapping my foot and staring at my watch.

So, I’m giving my impatience to God, asking Him to help me trust His timing and while I wait, I’m also asking Him to give me His peace and strength.

*But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31*

**5. LET GO OF DISOBEDIENCE AND SURRENDER TO GOD’S COMMANDS**

I’m too often a creature of habits and not all of them are good. It’s easy to make light of my sins, after all they’re not THAT bad. But sins are a big deal. They rob me of peace, cause me unpleasant consequences, and fail to glorify God.

I’m asking God to help me believe His ways are best and give me a heart for obedience ... not to earn His favor but to glorify Him and testify to His love.

Lord, we show our trust in You by obeying Your laws; our heart’s desire is to glorify Your name. Isaiah 26:8

***I STILL HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN TO COMPLETELY SURRENDER TO GOD’S WILL.***

I like to have control over what happens in my life. I want what I want and I want it now. But experience has taught me that fighting God’s plans will never offer me lasting happiness or peace. It has never happened in the past and I doubt it will in the future.

I believe God wants to help us trust His perfect love and surrender to His will.

*Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. Isaiah 46:9*

So... **I will surrender my will to God today.**

Not on my own.

But with His help.

***I can do all things through Christ because He gives me strength. Philippians 4:13***

***I’M THANKFUL FOR THESE QUOTES TO INSPIRE ME.***

♥ “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

♥ “It is wonderful what miracles God works in wills that are utterly surrendered to Him” ~Hannah Whitall Smith

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♥ “Real contentment must come from within. You and I cannot change or control the world around us, but we can change and control the world within us.” ~Warren Wiersbe

♥ “Peace is the deliberate adjustment of my life to the will of God.” ~Author Unknown

**A Daily [Prayer](#) of Surrender to God’s Will**

Years ago, a dear friend shared this morning prayer with me.

**Father God, I surrender this day to You. I will follow where You lead and do Your will as You reveal it to me. Help me live this promise – that I may live today for Your glory. In the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

May this be the way I begin each day, and with God’s help may I live it out one moment at a time.

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**Question: "What does it mean to surrender to God?"**

**Answer:** This world is a battleground. Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden ([Genesis 3:17-19](#)), the world God created has been in conflict with Him ([Romans 8:20-22](#)). Satan is called the "god of this world" ([2 Corinthians 4:4](#)), and due to Adam’s sin, we are born on his team ([Romans 5:12](#)). John Bunyan pictured this conflict in his allegory *The Holy War*. Prince Emmanuel besieges the city of Mansoul to wrest it from the power of Diabolus. Unfortunately, the citizens of Mansoul are blindly committed to Diabolus and fight against Emmanuel, to their own detriment.

When we reach the age when we can make moral choices, we must choose whether to follow our own sinful inclinations or to seek God (see [Joshua 24:15](#)). God promises that when we seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him ([Jeremiah 29:13](#)). When we find Him, we have a choice to make: do we continue following our own inclinations, or do we surrender to His will?

*Surrender* is a battle term. It implies giving up all rights to the conqueror. When an opposing army surrenders, they lay down their arms, and the winners take control from then on. Surrendering to God works the same way. God has a plan for our lives, and surrendering to Him means we set aside our own plans and eagerly seek His. The good news is that God’s plan for us is always in our best interest ([Jeremiah 29:11](#)), unlike our own plans that often lead to destruction ([Proverbs 14:12](#)). Our Lord is a wise and beneficent victor; He conquers us to bless us.

There are different levels of surrender, all of which affect our relationship with God. Initial surrender to the drawing of the Holy Spirit leads to salvation ([John 6:44](#); [Acts 2:21](#)). When we let go of our own attempts to earn God’s favor and rely upon the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, we become a child of God ([John 1:12](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). But there are times of greater surrender during a Christian’s life that bring deeper intimacy with God and greater power in service. The more areas of our lives we surrender to Him, the more room there is for the filling of the Holy Spirit ([Ephesians 5:18](#)). When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we exhibit traits of His character ([Galatians 5:22](#)). The more we surrender to God, the more our old self-worshiping nature is replaced with one that resembles Christ ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).

[Romans 6:13](#) says that God demands that we surrender the totality of our selves; He wants the whole, not a part: “Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.” Jesus said that His followers must deny themselves ([Mark 8:34](#))—another call to surrender.

The goal of the Christian life can be summed up by [Galatians 2:20](#): "I have been [crucified with Christ](#). It is no longer I who

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live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Such a life of surrender is pleasing to God, results in the greatest human fulfillment, and will reap ultimate rewards in heaven ([Luke 6:22-23](#)).

<https://www.gotquestions.org/surrender-to-God.html>