

Surrender

Surrender (Merriam-Webster):

“to yield to the power, control, or possession of another upon compulsion or demand (willfully or by force); to give oneself up into the power of another.”

Some are sent into slavery against their will (forced slavery) - Exodus 1:8-12)

Some are in slavery willfully (bond-slaves or bond-servants) - (Exodus 21:5-6)

Other words that reflect “surrender”:

- Submit
- Yield
- Master / Bond-Servant
- Give in

Key concepts on surrender:

- We are slaves to whatever masters us (2 Peter 2:19).
- When we make ourselves slaves to God, we are set free from our former master (sin) (Romans 6:18-23). He then adopts us into His royal family (Ephesians 1:5).
- Following Jesus means we must deny ourselves (die to ourselves symbolized by taking up our cross) and following Jesus daily (Matthew 16:24-26).
- We must throw away our other “gods” (idols) then yield our hearts to the Lord (Joshua 24:23).
- We cannot serve God and money (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13).
- We cannot submit to God when we are still controlled by the sinful nature but only if we belong to Christ and are controlled by God’s Spirit that lives in us (Romans 8:7-9; Galatians 2:20).
- Salvation is by confessing that we have made Jesus our Lord (Master) and believing that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9-10).
- There is freedom by becoming “slaves” to Christ (1 Corinthians 7:20-24).
- If I surrender all that I have but do not have love, I gain nothing (1 Corinthians 13:3).
- God is the source of love (1 John 4:7-21; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13).
- Submission to God is necessary to resist the Devil (James 4:7).

An Illustration:

Picture being in a war and in a hopeless situation. You surrender to your enemy, only to discover that He is good and right and you’ve been on the wrong side. You admit it, and unbelievably instead of punishing or killing you, He adopts you into His royal family. He shares His battle plan with you now at his side. The battle is hard but victory is guaranteed!

For some of us (at least for me), possible “stages” of surrender:

Not surrendered - I am behind the steering wheel of my life.

Stage 1 - I am next to Jesus behind the wheel with my hands on the wheel, “helping” Him.

Stage 2 - I move to the rear becoming a “backseat driver.”

Stage 3 - I am back in the passenger seat thankful that He is driving, and not me.

Key questions regarding surrender:

- 1) If we do not surrender to Jesus as our Lord and Savior, to what substitutes might we likely surrender? (Galatians 5:19-21)
- 2) What is the evidence that we are surrendered to Christ and are not just professing Christians? (John 14:21; John 15:8; Galatians 5:22-23)
- 3) Does surrender to Christ mean that we live without temptation and sin? Explain. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- 4) As “bond-slaves” to Christ, what do we do when we sin? (1 John 1:9)
- 5) What are the benefits of a surrendered life to Jesus? (list them on the back)

**All to Jesus, I surrender
I surrender all!**