

# SURRENDER — PART 1

Bible Study • Study Guide

**Opening Prayer:** Lord, be with us as we study Your Word. Help us to surrender our will as You work Your will in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

How has life been treating you lately – financially, physically, regarding relationships? Are you struggling to keep your head above water? Are you floating on the clouds, or are you just living a day-to-day rather uneventful life?

**Take a moment and jot down your uppermost concern today.**

(You can use code words if you want to keep it private.)

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*Merriam-Webster.com* defines surrender: To give (oneself) up into the power of another.

On February 2, 2005, as Aletha Voges was preparing to lead an LWML Bible Study on “Peace,” she read Romans 8:6: *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace* (NIV). She thought that a great question to ask the ladies would be, “How does one’s mind become controlled by the Spirit?” Reflecting upon this question herself, she could not help but be reminded that a life controlled by the Spirit continually surrenders to our Lord's good and gracious will. Led by the Holy Spirit, she would continue to be reminded that she would be used by God as He saw fit.

Aletha’s life took a drastic turn as three days later her husband Ethan began his 15-month battle with pancreatic cancer. She was allowed to witness God's miraculous workings as the Holy Spirit led her to surrender and trust in her God who did not work in ways she always wanted, but rather according to His purpose.

Aletha states, “It was a humbling experience to let go of my wants and desires and see God take them away and replace them with His will and purpose for my life. It felt like I was walking in two different worlds. In one I was dealing with Ethan’s roller coaster medical issues and in the other I was allowed to see how God was using our experiences to His glory.”

**What relationship would you need to have with other people in order for you to surrender to their will?**

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Let us look closely at three possible attitudes.

**Humility — thinking more highly of others than self — submissive**

**What do these verses teach us about God's calling us to lives of humility?**

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

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**Psalms 25:9**

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**Psalms 149:4**

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**Proverbs 3:34**

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**Ephesians 4:1-2**

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**James 4:7-10**

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**Trust — to depend on, rely on, or entrust your will to someone else, surrender**

**What do we learn from these examples about trust?**

**Genesis 12:1-8**

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**Genesis 22:1–18**

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**Daniel 3:16–18**

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**Daniel 6:10–13, 16–22**

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**Matthew 26:38–39, 42**

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**Faith — believing what is unseen, trusting what may not be felt**

**How can these passages enrich our lives lived out in faith?**

**Matthew 9:2**

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**Matthew 9:20–22**

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**Luke 17:5–6**

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**Romans 1:16–17**

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**2 Corinthians 5:7**

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**Hebrews 11:13**

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Where is your faith focused? By the power of the Holy Spirit are you looking upward to God and outward to others with trust in God to work good things in the midst of devastating problems? Or are you inwardly focused on only what you can do?

1 Peter 5:6–7 reminds believers to humble (submit, surrender) yourselves, to be lifted up, and to cast your cares on God because He cares about you.

**Closing Prayer:** Lord, we confess that we do not always come to You first with our problems. We try to handle them by ourselves. May the Holy Spirit strengthen our faith and trust in You that we willingly relinquish our will to You. May our lives reflect Your love, O Lord, and may others see You in us and glorify our Father in Heaven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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