

SURRENDER — PART 1

Bible Study • Leader Guide

[Please provide all participants with Bibles and a copy of this 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.)

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?

[Possible answers]

humility — submissive attitude

trust — letting go and letting someone else lead

faith — believe someone else has the best interest for your welfare

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

humble selves, pray, submit, surrender, seek God's face

Psalms 25:9

He leads (guides) the humble — teaches

Psalms 149:4

The Lord delights, takes pleasure — adorns with salvation

Proverbs 3:34

He gives favor to the humble.

Ephesians 4:1-2

Humility is considered *a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*

James 4:6, 10

It's a way of submitting to God. He gives grace and exalts those who humble themselves.

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

Abram left all he knew and followed God to an unknown promised land. He trusted God to lead.

Genesis 22:1–18

Abraham was tested to sacrifice his only son Isaac. He trusted that God knew what He was doing.

Daniel 3:16–18

Three men in the fiery furnace surrendered their lives to God because they trusted His faithfulness.

Daniel 6:10–13, 16–23

Daniel in prayer and the lion's den trusted God would protect him from the lions.

Matthew 26:38–39, 42

Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, trusted His Father's plan all the way to the cross.

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

Jesus noticed the people's faith. Pray for others to be healed.

Matthew 9:20–22

The woman's prayer of faith healed her. Pray in faith.

Luke 17:5–6

Pray for God to increase your faith.

Romans 1:16–17

It reminds us to keep our faith in the Gospel.

2 Corinthians 5:7

We live by faith, not by what we see.

Hebrews 11:13

We may never see the final results of our prayers, but God is working on His time schedule. Heaven is our home.

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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