

SURRENDER — PART 2

Bible Study • Study Guide

In Part 1 of this study we looked at what it means to surrender our will as God works His will in our lives. We studied what impact humility, trust, and faith play in our lives as we, by the power of the Holy Spirit, surrender all to Christ.

Surrendering our lives to Christ does not mean life is without difficulties. In this part of the study we will look at Job, a man of God, to whom God allowed disaster to strike.

Opening Prayer: Lord, we all have broken areas in our lives. We confess these to You and ask that, as we walk with Job and see how You worked in his life, the Holy Spirit will strengthen our faith and our trust in You. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Read Job 1. God and Satan had a conversation and Job's life was changed forever.

What calamities did Job face?

What might your reaction be if you had to face any or all of the calamities Job experienced?

Any one of them might do us in – financial ruin, loss of prestige, loss of family – and yet Job persisted in faith.

Have you had a time when you doubted God was interested in your wellbeing? How did it turn out?

Read Job 2:1–10. God and Satan had another conversation.

Did God inflict evil upon Job? Does God inflict evil on us?

See Job 2:6.

Read Romans 5:1–5 and Romans 8:1, 28, 31–39.

When we experience troubles and evil in our lives, how does God use these experiences for our benefit?

God allowed Satan to inflict pain on Job's body but told Satan that he must spare Job's life.

According to verse 9, what did Job's wife encourage him to do in the midst of his pain?

What was Job's response?

What does Job's response to his wife say about his faith in God?

Think about a challenging time in your life.

How did (do) these challenges affect you physically?

How did (do) these challenges affect you spiritually?

What have you done or are you doing to try to fix the situation?

Read Job 2:11–13.

According to these verses, how did Job's friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar initially come to help him in his time of suffering?

As these three friends continued to spend time with Job, they each came to some interesting conclusions concerning Job's suffering. Read Job 4:7–9, Job 8:11–13, and Job 11:13–20.

Summarize what Job's three friends concluded as to why he faced so many troubles.

The advice Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar gave to Job was not only distressing, it is against the truth of Holy Scripture.

How does the Bible rightly explain God's intentions for us in each of the references below?

Genesis 50:15–21

Psalms 9:9–12

John 9:1–3

James 1:2–4, 12–18

Read Job 7.

Which of Job's feelings described in this chapter are similar to ones you have felt when you have suffered?

Job did not understand why God was allowing such suffering to befall him. Yet through it all, Job held on to one eternal truth. Read Job 19:25–27.

What is that truth?

How can remembering the truth of Job 19:25–27 anchor us in our own times of suffering?

Jesus, our true Friend and true Savior, fully understands our feelings when we suffer. Read Luke 22:39–42 and 22:63–65.

What was the source of Jesus' suffering?

Despite His dread, what does Jesus pray to His Heavenly Father (Luke 22:42)?

How does God respond to Jesus' suffering (verse 43)?

What does Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane show that our response can be in times of suffering?

As He suffered, Job bombarded God with questions. Then God came to Job and asked him questions that Job could not answer.

Read Job 38–41.

What do God's questions to Job reveal about God and why we can trust Him to help us in any time of need?

Read Job 42:1–9. Job confessed his lack of understanding of God's might and mercy. God led Job to recognize that he was but a man and that God alone is all-knowing and all powerful. The Holy Spirit worked in Job's heart and led him to repent.

Why is repentance such an important element in Job's surrender to God as well as in our own surrender to Him?

John writes in 1 John 1:9: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Cleansed and forgiven by God, what was Job now freed to do?

What joy or peace do we miss when we stubbornly hold onto our will instead of surrendering to God that His Kingdom may come among us?

Read James 4:7–10.

What does God promise us when we surrender ourselves to Him?

God did not leave Job destitute. Read Job 42:10–17.

How did God bless Job in his later years?

Read Revelation 21:3–4.

What does God promise all believers no matter what suffering we might experience during our life here on earth?

A final thought: Aletha Voges, the author of this study, walked with her husband Pastor Ethan Voges through his 15-month battle with pancreatic cancer. After much suffering, God took Pastor Voges to his eternal home in heaven. Aletha concludes, “Had I not, through the power of the Holy Spirit, surrendered my will to be used as God saw fit, the outcome of my husband Ethan’s 15-month battle with pancreatic cancer would not have changed, but I would

have missed seeing the power of God working in our lives. I would not be living with the peace I now have. I look back and remember how it felt like I was living in two different worlds. The one included the day-to-day struggles of Ethan's illness, the other, a view of God working in our lives and in the lives of others touched by our experiences. One day while reading Daniel 2:22, I found these words, ... *he [God] reveals deep and hidden things*. As I read and pondered His Word, God helped me see His hidden messages through the struggles we faced. God has given me the privilege to share with others the insights He has given me. God did not answer my prayers as I wanted. He had a better plan. I now live in forgiveness by the power of the Holy Spirit helping me as I struggle to continue living in surrender to Christ."

Think about your own times of suffering. How has God worked through these times to strengthen your faith in Him and to enable you to help others in their own suffering?

Closing Prayer: Lord God, You know the difficulties each of us is facing today. Many times, we try to solve the problems on our own before coming to You. Forgive us for not coming to You with even our most finite issues. Help us to daily surrender our will to Your will and to walk step-by-step with You leading us. Through faith in Jesus, our once suffering and now triumphant Savior, we trust You to lead us to our ultimate destination, life in heaven with You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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