

## Lesson #9—The Perspective of Biblical Surrender

### Introduction

- A. In order to make a success of the Christian life it is important that we understand who we are. If we can understand ourselves it will enable us to discern between those attitudes and activities of life which would be self defeating and those that would be conducive to spiritual growth.
- B. The Bible reminds us that it is possible to be religious and yet to follow a path of activity largely dictated by ignorance (Romans 10:2, 3). It is also possible to be a believer and to live in such a way that the truth of the Christian life is not acknowledged (II Timothy 2:25, 26).
- C. In these lessons we are endeavoring to ascertain from the Bible the various perspectives which will enable us to correctly evaluate ourselves and the manner of life that will glorify God.
- D. In this lesson before us we are seeking to understand the teaching of the Bible regarding personal surrender.

### I. The Necessity of Surrendering to God.

- A. Man was created in fellowship with God and designed to walk with God.

Genesis 3:8—

Ephesians 4:24—

Colossians 3:10—

Revelation 3:20—

- B. Mankind, in the Fall, was alienated from God. In his sin man lives according to a pattern largely dictated by personal selfishness, the system of the world, and Satanic influence.

Romans 1:21-32—

Galatians 5:19-21—

Ephesians 2:1-3—

I John 2:15-17—

- C. In salvation the believer is restored to fellowship with God and the bondage of sin is broken. In order to grow in the grace of God it is necessary to surrender to God—once for all—and then to live a surrendered life daily. The concept of surrender is an important dimension in such attitudes and actions as repentance, confession, and the decisions of faith, love, and hope.

Luke 13:1—

I John 1:9—

Hebrews 11:1-40—

### II. The Old Testament Pattern for Surrender.

If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer **a male without blemish**. He shall offer it **of his own voluntary will** at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation **before the Lord**. And he shall **put his hand upon the head** of the burnt offering and it shall be **accepted for him to make atonement for him**. And he shall **kill the bullock before the Lord** and the priests...shall **sprinkle the blood**...and the priests shall **burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice**, an offering made by fire, of a **sweet savour unto the Lord**. Leviticus 1:3-9

An act of obedience  
A voluntary act  
A spiritual act  
A personal act  
An act of transaction with God  
An act of complete surrender  
An act pleasing to God

### III. The New Testament Instruction for Surrender.

#### A. We are to give ourselves unreservedly to God.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1, 2

#### B. The explanation of this act of surrender.

##### 1. The **basis** of our sacrifice: "the mercies of God."

There is no other basis for coming to God. His mercy, as manifested in the action of divine love, has made it possible to come and surrender to Him.

##### 2. The **content** of our sacrifice: "present your bodies a living sacrifice."

The reference to our bodies would indicate that we are to surrender ourselves totally to God-with special emphasis on who we are and how we express ourselves. As the Old Testament sacrifice was totally given to God, so He expects us to give ourselves and all we have, totally to Himself as a Person. We are then to live as a "living sacrifice". Here is where many believers fail. We surrender with reservation or we are doing that which we cannot surrender to God.

##### 3. The **character** of our sacrifice: "holy, acceptable, reasonable service."

When we obey God in this surrender the result is that a new dimension of holiness is added to our lives. God looks upon us and we must look upon ourselves as though we belonged to Him. Our sacrifice has been accepted before God and that act and our daily lives become a "reasonable" or "spiritual service".

##### 4. The **spiritual advantages** related to this sacrificial act.

###### a. The believer now has the ability to be free from the world system of sin.

"And be not conformed to this world."

To attempt to live a consistent Christian life when one is not surrendered to God is very frustrating. Without the first step of obedience (surrender) the second step (be not conformed to this world) is quite impossible (in the Biblical perspective).

###### b. The believer now has the ability to be transformed in daily life.

"but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

The word "transformed" comes from the Greek "metamorphosis". The reference is to change of form, of structure or substance. When we surrender to God - then His grace flows into our lives - and that relationship brings the ability for transformation.

###### c. The believer now has the ability to know and do the will of God.

"that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

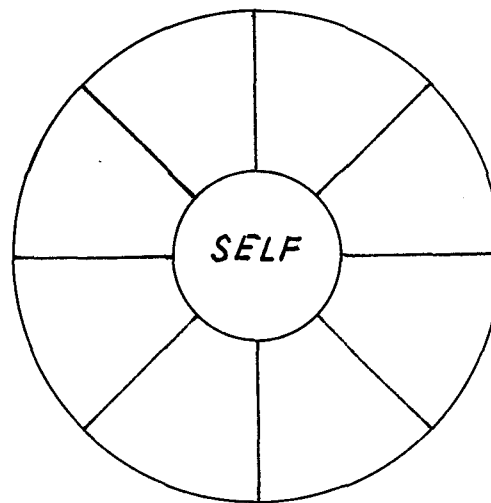
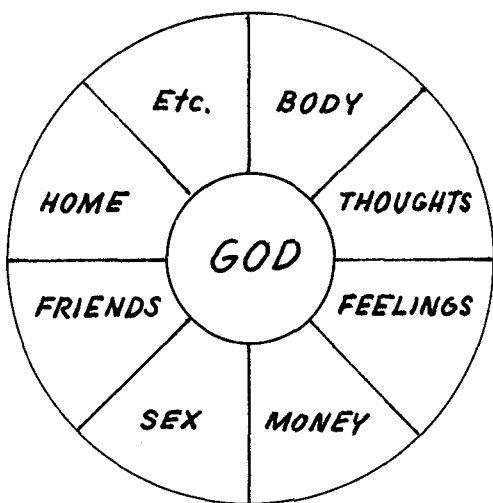
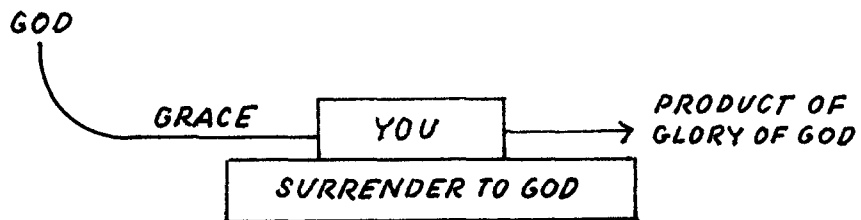
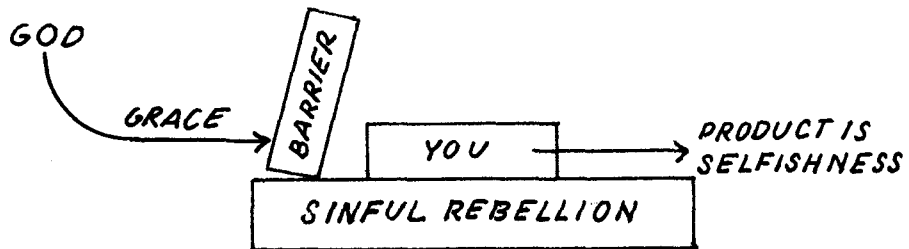
Before surrendering to God we usually do not want to do the will of God. After this spiritual act - we not only want to do His will - we can.

The practical and daily implications of this surrender to God.

1. Galatians 1:4—It is the will of God that the believer be delivered from the world.

2. Ephesians 6:6—It is the will of God that the believer do the will of God from his heart.

3. Colossians 1:9-12—It is the will of God that the believer live worthy of God.



4. I Thessalonians 4:3—It is the will of God that the believer be sanctified.

5. I Thessalonians 5:16-18—It is the will of God that the believer be joyful, pray, and be thankful.

**Conclusion: Suggestions for memorization and application.**

A. Memorize Romans 12:1, 2.

B. Apply this lesson by daily making the following affirmation:

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I fully surrender myself to You, Heavenly Father. I give to You my body, my life and all that I am and have. Teach me and transform me so that I may walk with You and do Your will today.