



# The Good News

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## *The Surrendered Life*

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When we read war history, we often learn of generals and armies that are faced with certain death and therefore surrender themselves to their adversary in hopes of preserving their lives. The definition of “surrender” is “to yield (something) to the possession or power of another; to give (oneself) up”. When we read the Bible, we read of something very similar taking place in the life of one who desires to please and obey God. In **Luke 9:23**, Jesus says “*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*” We want to consider three areas in which we are to deny ourselves and surrender to God:

**1) Surrendering our will for the will of God** – Living a surrendered life to God begins with understanding the difference between my will and God’s will. I must learn to surrender my will, or perhaps more accurately, change my will in order for it to align with what God’s will is. It is important to note that we must submit to the will of God if we want to be counted among Jesus’ “family”. In **Matt. 12:50**, Jesus says that “*whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.*” But what should our attitude be regarding this? David has the proper attitude when he writes in **Psalms 40:8**, “*I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.*” We must learn to delight in doing His will, and we must learn to do “*the will of God from the heart*” (**Eph. 6:6**). We shouldn’t follow His will simply because we have to, but rather because we want to.

**2) Surrendering our lives of sin** – In order for us to follow Jesus, we cannot be carrying the weight of sin around...we must “die” to it. In **Rom. 6:2**, Paul says “*How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*” and in **verse 6**, “*knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*” Paul

says those who desire to follow Jesus and be obedient have put to death their lives of sin (by way of baptism) and be raised to “*walk in newness of life*” (**v.4**). Paul also says in **Gal. 5:24, 25** that “*those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*” The whole idea is to submit to God’s will, which is the opposite of following my own. The phrase “passions and desires” describes the nature of the things that I want to do that are sinful according to God...I must surrender myself free of these things.

**3) Surrendering to God in the face of trials** – A perfect example of this is found in **Mark 14:36ff** where we find Jesus in the Garden, praying that God would allow the cup (of suffering and anguish) to pass from Him, “*Nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.*” In **John 18:11**, when Jesus was to be taken into custody, Jesus says to Peter, “*Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*” Jesus gives us an example of One who is willing to surrender to God even in the face of a terrible death, all to fulfill His will. Job also provides an excellent example in **Job 1:20** when, after losing his children and his livelihood, he tore his robe, shaved his head and fell to the ground and worshipped. Eli made the statement in **I Sam. 3:18**, after hearing that God would judge his house, “*It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him.*” These individuals all recognized that God allows both good and the bad to come our way. How we handle the bad can show whether we have truly submitted to Him.

These are areas that we should examine to determine whether we are truly living a surrendered life. Jesus says we must deny ourselves and follow Him...will we do that today?