

FORMED for MISSION

Week 4: Surrender

ABIDE: Silence & prayer to help us intentionally focus on recognizing it is the Holy Spirit at work in us & through us that helps us to understand the things of Christ. WE ARE FULLY DEPENDENT ON GOD.

OBEY: We read, learn, and understand how to apply with the Bible teaches so that we can know what actions to do or not do (**Scripture**). WE LIVE WHAT JESUS TAUGHT.

Matthew 16:23-27 (NRSVUE) ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.”

Discuss:

v. 23 what is Jesus saying to Peter “setting your mind on human things”?

v. 24-25 What is Jesus communicating in these two verses?

v. 26-27 Is this repayment fair, in your opinion? Why or why not?

Matthew 4:8-10 (NRSVUE) ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

v. 9 “I will give...if you...”

Tradition: How has the Church understood this (surrender) throughout history?
(Hint: Jesus as our Lord, not just our Savior.)

Romans 12:1-2 ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Reason: Why does this make sense?

Jesus knows what is best for us, so trusting him makes sense.

SURRENDER: What idea or belief might God be asking you to surrender, to exchange for his truth today, in order to keep in step with the Holy Spirit?

Hebrews 12:1-11 (The Message) Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

(4-11) In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through—all that bloodshed! So don't feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as his children? "My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either. It's the child he loves that he disciplines; the child he embraces, he also corrects. God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's training, the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we can truly live? While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best. At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off big-time, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.

Experience: How have we seen this in our own lives?

What have you discovered when you're surrendered your own way, desires, thoughts, actions, etc.?

Wesleyan Articles of Faith & Guides for Holy Living: foundational doctrines (beliefs) and practical application of those beliefs that are meant to guide us closer towards God & help us walk with Jesus.

HOPE SHOT: Change from the inside out, demonstrated by obedience and surrender, produce a life with Jesus that is beautiful, abundant, and secure.

GO: How will I live this out?

Ask God - is there an area you've been calling me to surrender? (A reoccurring thought, something you know you need to give up, constant conviction?)

Ask God - Are you jumping ahead of God's plan and looking for the easy way out? (Relationship, career, goals in life? etc.)

Ask God - Have I become so "clean" you feel that it is YOUR JOB to get others to obey & surrender? (This is a work of the Holy Spirit & prevenient grace.)