

Absolute Surrender, Absolute Power

When the angel Gabriel was sent by God to announce Christ's birth to Mary, her response was this, *"Let it be to me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38). The condition for living the supernatural life, and obtaining God's full blessing, is **absolute surrender** to Him. Mary surrendered her life to God even though she did not fully understand what the angel had said, and even though, she was only seventeen.

I believe God is asking for the same unreserved surrender from us. If we are to experience the awesome power of God, together with miraculous answer to prayer, we must totally surrender to Him. The degree to which we surrender is the degree to which God's mighty power will manifest in and through us. But are we willing to surrender ourselves absolutely into His capable hands? What's your answer going to be? God knows there are hundreds of hearts who have said it, and there are hundreds more who long to say it, but the blessing is in the doing! **Absolute surrender**, and nothing else, will bring about the supernatural life our Lord Jesus secured for us.

However, it is not something we do naturally. Therefore, we must learn to **trust** God enough to surrender to Him. I have found six things we need to grasp if we are to surrender our lives completely and unreservedly to God. From the outset, we must understand that God expects us to surrender.

1. GOD EXPECTS OUR SURRENDER

Surrender has its foundation in the very nature and essence of God. That is why He expects it! God cannot do otherwise. Who is God? He is the Fountain of life, the only Source of existence and power. Throughout the universe there is nothing good but what God works to His pleasure. God has created the sun, the moon, the stars, the flowers, the trees, and the grass. Are they not all in total surrender to their Creator? Do they not allow Him to use them just as He pleases? When God clothes the lily, is it not under His control (surrendered), given over to God as He works His wonders to reveal its beauty? Likewise, how can we think that God can do His work in us if there is only half or a part of ourselves surrendered. Aren't we more precious in His eyes than the flowers of the field?

The lack of **absolute surrender** is the thing that hinders God from going His work. That is why He comes, and as God, He claims it. The temple of Solomon was absolutely surrendered to God when it was dedicated to Him. Every one of us is a temple of God, in which God dwells and works mightily. But with one condition, absolute surrender to Him! God demands it, God is worthy of it, and without it God cannot do His mighty work in and through us. Note, God not only claims our surrender, but He will effectively work it Himself – He **accomplishes** it!

2. GOD ACCOMPLISHES OUR SURRENDER

I am sure there are many of you thinking: "Oh, but that absolute surrender implies so much! How can I be sure that it isn't going to bring about hardship and heartache." To those of you who are fearful and anxious, let me say this, "God does not ask you to give the perfect surrender in your own strength, or by the power of

your own will; God is willing to work it in you.” Do we not read: “It is God that works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (**Philippians 2:13**)? God Himself will work in you to bring about absolute surrender.

I want to encourage you to cast away every fear. Come as you are and simply say, “My Lord, I am willing that You should make me willing.” If there is anything holding you back, or any sacrifice you are afraid of making, come to God now and prove how gracious our God is. Don't be afraid that He will command from you that which He is not willing to provide. God gladly comes and offers to work this absolute surrender in you. All that hunger and longing which is in your heart, is confirmation that God is drawing toward Himself?

Remember, Jesus lived a life of absolute surrender. Therefore, He has possession of you; He is living in your heart by His Holy Spirit. You may have hindered Him terribly, but He desires to help you to get a hold of Him entirely. And He has come to draw you now by His word. Will you not also draw near and trust Him to work in you that absolute surrender. The Lord can do it, and He will do it. Why? Because He wants you to live the supernatural life He intended for you.

Note, God not only expects it, but He gladly accepts it when we bring it to Him.

3. GOD ACCEPTS OUR SURRENDER

God does His work in the secret places of the heart. God urges us by the hidden power of His Holy Spirit to come and yield to Him with absolute surrender. However, there will be times when you will doubt whether you are being ‘absolute’ enough. Therefore, if you draw near and declare: “*Lord, I yield myself in absolute surrender to You,*” even though you do so with a trembling heart, thinking: “*I do not feel the power. I do not feel the determination. I do not feel the assurance*” - it will succeed. So don't be afraid, just come as you are. Even when you're feeling nervous, the power of the Spirit works. God **accepts** your surrender, regardless of your feelings of inadequacy.

You must get used to the fact that the Holy Spirit works with mighty power while everything appears weak to us. Look at the Lord Jesus in Gethsemane. We read that He, “*through the eternal Spirit*” offered Himself a sacrifice to God. The Almighty Spirit of God was enabling Jesus to do it. And yet what agony and fear and exceeding sorrow came over the Lord. Externally, we can see no sign of the mighty power of the Spirit, but the Spirit of God was there. Likewise, while you are weak and trembling, exercise your ‘faith’ in the hidden work of God's Spirit, and then **surrender** yourself. Every time you yield in absolute surrender, let it be with the faith that God does accept it. Yes, God completely accepts you as you are! You may not feel it, you may not realise it, but God welcomes you because you are His. God not only expects it (and works it); He graciously accepts it when we bring it, and He also **maintains** it.

4. GOD MAINTAINS OUR SURRENDER

I have heard many a person say, “*I have often been stirred at a meeting or at a service. But it didn't last – it simply faded away.*” But listen! It is because you do not believe that when God has begun the work of **absolute surrender** in you, and when He has accepted your surrender, that He then God holds Himself

bound to **care** for it and keep it. Yes, He will maintain the same spirit of surrender no matter what you may be thinking! God is willing. Do you not believe that He can continually maintain you, day by day, and moment by moment? If God allows the sun to shine on you minute by minute, without any intermission, will God not let His light shine on you every moment? So why have you not experienced it? Because you have not really trusted God for it, and you do not **surrender** yourself absolutely to God in that trust. That is why you leave an anointed service and it all fades into oblivion.

Yes, a life of absolute surrender will probably have its difficulties. I do not deny that. But by the grace of God, by the power of God, and by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, it is a life to which we are destined, and a life that is possible for us! Therefore, let us believe that God will **maintain** it in every situation where we have met with Him. Yes, the living God wants to work in us in ways that we cannot fully understand (but we don't need to). The Sovereign God wants to work in us every moment of every day. He is willing to maintain our life of total surrender. So let our 'absolute surrender' be simple and childlike, and let it abound in trust.

5. GOD BLESSES OUR SURRENDER

Absolute surrender to God brings wonderful blessings. So why not believe that the Lord has miraculous blessings in store for you? Why not bow before Him in humility, and walk closely with Him every day? You ought to be saying: *"Anything Lord, that brings glory to You I am prepared to do."* Come and cast this 'self-life' and 'flesh-life' at the feet of Jesus. Then trust Him. Do not worry yourself with trying to understand all about it, but draw near in the living faith that Jesus Christ will come to you in the power of His death and the power of His resurrection. Then, the Holy Spirit will manifest blessing after blessing after blessing. So much that you will not be able to contain it! So much that everyone around you will be affected! Yes, **absolute surrender** ensures that God's blessings will overtake you!

6. GOD EMPOWERS OUR SURRENDER

God the Father loves to give us the power of His Spirit. That is why we have the Spirit living in us. When we come to God praising Him for it, in absolute surrender, the Spirit of power manifest Himself (in various ways). And then we bow our knees to the Father, asking that *"He strengthen us with all might by His Spirit in the inner man."* He does exactly that – He fills us with His mighty power!

Without **absolute surrender** there can be no lasting evidence of divine power. The Spirit of God is looking for empty and yielded vessels. He is looking to fill these vessels with His might and power so that the ministry of Jesus Christ can continue here on earth. Note, when you are completely surrendered, you are completely available! This means that God can use you anywhere and for any reason, Yes, He can even do miracles through you!

But it all hinges on this one condition, *"that you are completely and totally surrendered (yielded) to Him."* Please understand, this is not about thinking "a lifetime", but rather, thinking "a life-moment." If you intend to accomplish *absolute surrender* for your lifetime, you will fail and get discouraged. Think about surrendering

your life moment by moment! And remember that He is willing to accept, and able to maintain, your surrender. In fact this is what He expects from you – nothing more and nothing less!

To recap: (1) God **expects** your surrender; (2) God **accomplishes** (or works) your surrender; (3) God **accepts** your surrender; (4) God **maintains** your surrender; (5) God **blesses** your surrender; and (6) God **empowers** your surrender.