

# Necessary Ingredients for the Christian Journey

## “I Surrender All” Part II

Luke 9:23-26

### INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are going to focus on the *Pain of Surrender*. Last week, we discussed the *Problem of Surrender*, which is primarily having to realize, in short, that we aren't the primary focus of our lives anymore. The realization of this can be overwhelming. Rather there is a freedom to it because I realize I'm not the captain of the ship anymore. I'm just in it for the ride to see where the Captain of Life takes me.

The Captain of the Ship of Life has given us the perfect example to follow. He has come to our aid to be what He didn't have to be so that we could experience what would have never been ours to begin with. Listen to C.S. Lewis...

#### **C.S. Lewis**

God has landed on this enemy-occupied world in human form. The perfect surrender and humiliation was undergone by Christ: perfect because He was God, surrender and humiliation because He was man.

Surrender can be a painful experience if one still flirts with their own pride. In the treatment center, a client asked a friend of mine who was a trauma counselor how long the process of healing takes, and his answer was great. He said, “That depends on you and your willingness to let go.” This is so true. Many never experience healing in their lives because they never let go of the pain because they fear the pain of surrender. Fear is a powerful motivator and manipulator in this area of transition and transformation. For example, the battered wife often does not seek safety but returns to a place of violence not because she believes it's the “right” place for her but because her greatest fear lies in the unknown. This is where the relationship with God is instrumental in the transformation of change and the progression of discipleship because we are surrendering to the One who has all control and power.

God is calling us, commanding us, and convicting us to let go of the old self to discover who He made us to be.

### **Luke 9:23-26 ESV**

<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? <sup>26</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

### **Luke 9:23-26 NLT**

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. <sup>24</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. <sup>25</sup> And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? <sup>26</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.

## **I. “Take Up”**

A. Surrender is a call to action in Jesus.

B. Many of us want the change in our life to be a thing of an “osmosis” type process where it happens to us versus happening through us.

C. We stress because this call to “take up” forces us to take action in our own lives which ultimately makes us have to own up to where we are.

D. Taking action will force us to deal with situations, relationships, etc., that too many have spent our whole life avoiding and trying to ignore.

E. This is not a “do it on your own” process as we shall discuss next week, but Christ has sent out an invitation waiting for a response.

F. Christ isn’t going to force you to follow Him, but He defines the rules or understanding as to what following Him means in the first place.

## **Charles Spurgeon**

I wish that saints would cling to Christ half as earnestly as sinners cling to the devil. If we were as willing to suffer for God as some are willing to suffer for their lusts, what perseverance and zeal would be seen on all sides!

## **II. “His Cross”**

A. When we read or hear the word “cross” we can’t help but think of Jesus hanging there.

B. This statement in Luke was obviously before Christ’s crucifixion but all of his audience members knew what the cross meant. It wasn’t a relic of adornment, but rather it was a sign of death. Not just any death, but torturous death.

C. To live as a follower of Christ, one must be prepared to die to themselves.

D. Many think this is so metaphorical that they lose the immediate significance. We are called to lay down our wants, wishes, dreams, and aspirations and place them in the coffin of our old life.

E. This, also, is the pain of surrender because it is sort of a funeral to our old lives.

F. Many see Jesus as more of a consultant in order to get through life, rather than the essence of the life they now live.

G. Let’s go back to how we ended last week.

## **Galatians 2:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God.

<sup>20</sup> My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So, I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

H. Paul clearly states his old life hangs in death, while his new life is the reality that Christ now lives His life in and through Paul.

I. What is the essence of that life, 'trusting in the Son.' Many say they trust Christ, but the behaviors of their life say otherwise. Unless your behaviors agree then it isn't true that you trust Jesus.

### **Oswald Chambers**

Have you ever realized that you can give things to God that are of value to Him? Or are you just sitting around daydreaming about the greatness of His redemption, while neglecting all the things you could be doing for Him? I'm not referring to works which could be regarded as divine and miraculous, but ordinary, simple human things - things which would be evidence to God that you are totally surrendered to Him.

### **John Newton**

God's people have no assurances that the dark experiences of life will be held at bay; much less that God will provide some sort of running commentary on the meaning of each day's allotment of confusion, boredom, pain, or achievement. It is no great matter where we are, provided we see that the Lord has placed us there, and that He is with us.

## **III. "Daily"**

A. How often do we face the challenge and the pain of surrender? The answer is daily.

B. Every sunrise starts a new challenge of change.

C. We are called daily to be attentive to our need to let go and let God.

D. Many never focus on this truth of the Christian life because they "have prayed the sinner's prayer." To those that do give it a look, it's mainly on Sunday, but God has called us daily to give up our ways for His ways, our thoughts for His thoughts, our will for His will.

E. The greatest task we have every day as a believer is to keep Christ not just in focus, but as the focus.

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **Elisabeth Elliot**

If my life is surrendered to God, all is well. Let me not grab it back, as though it were in peril in His hand but would be safer in mine!