

NEW YEARS 2019
RESOLUTION or ABSOLUTE SURRENDER
Matthew 26:31-35; Luke 22:54-62

- *It has been estimated that approximately 80% of New Year's resolutions fail within the first week...by January 8th.*
- *Another 7%...or approximately 87% of New Year's resolutions fail by the second week of February.*
- *Only 8% achieve their New Year's resolutions.*

Jesus does not want our *resolutions*, our *recommitments*, or our *promises to try harder* this year. He calls for *repentance* that leads to our *absolute surrender!* The condition of God's blessing is *absolute surrender* of our all into His hands. If our hearts are willing for that, there is no end to what God will do *in* and *through* us...and the *blessings* that He will *bestow* as a result.

This passage that we read today is the *turning point* in the life of **Peter**. **Peter** was not in a state to *follow Christ* before this time, because he *had not been brought to an end* of himself. He had not experienced *brokenness*...he had not been *broken* from the *stronghold* of his *flesh*. It was here...it is at this point where **Peter** was *transformed from self to Christ*.

Every person that I have known or observed that God has used in a *God glorifying way* has always gone through a process of *brokenness*...*breaking* their *flesh* and their *pride*.

When we look at the character of **Peter**...we see a man filled with many *failures* and *short comings*...yet we also see what Christ *molded him into* by the *power* of the *Holy Spirit*. Peter shows us that there is *hope* for *every one* of us! Here is a man that *had walked* with Jesus for *three years*, yet ended up *denying* Him *three times*. But he was *restored* in **John 21**, and later was used to *preach* the message of **Pentecost** in

Acts 2, where *120 followers* became *3000 believers*). **Peter** is a *picture* of someone *absolutely surrendered*...

I. GOD DELIGHTS IN YOUR SURRENDER:

“Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.”

~I Samuel 15:22

“For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

~Hosea 6:6

Remember the story of the *Rich Young Ruler* (**Matthew 19:16-22**). When *confronting* the *young man*, notice that Jesus left out *two key commandments*...because these were the ones that the *young man* was *failing to keep*.

- *“You shall have no other gods before me.”*
- *“You shall not covet.”*

Given the opportunity to *absolutely surrender* and *follow* Jesus...he instead *went away grieving*.

What does it mean to be absolutely surrendered...to be absolutely and unconditionally surrender to the Lordship of Christ? It begins when one...

- **Crucifies self**...one dies to self and to the flesh...and begins to live the resurrected life.

“I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”

~I Corinthians 15:31

- **Empties one of self**...(just as you don't mix water with gasoline in your tank...don't try mixing the flesh with the Spirit).

Just as Jesus emptied Himself...we must empty ourselves.

“...But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”

~Philippians 2:7

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”

~II Corinthians 8:9

When one begins the process of *absolute surrender* by *dying to self* and *emptying one's self*...God begins to...

- **Bring changes**...a changed heart...a renewed mind...a new awareness of sin...a new worldview.

This then give you the ability to...

- **Express a new love**...*express unconditional love to God*. Demonstrates sacrificial love towards God.

It gives you the grace and strength to...

- **Obey God**...hears God...experiences God.

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

~Galatians 2:20

II. GOD COMPLETES YOUR SURRENDER:

How can we resolve the struggle within us? How can we have victory over temptation and fight the battle against our flesh nature within us?

“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate...For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want...Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

~Romans 7:15, 18-19, 24-25a

- **Through His Word.**

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

~Hebrews 4:12

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...”

~II Timothy 3:16

- **By transforming you into His image.** You begin to think differently...you begin to see things differently.

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

~Romans 12:1-2

- **By reconciling you to Himself**...II Corinthians 5:14-21

III. GOD WORKS THROUGH YOUR SURRENDER:

“...He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

~II Corinthians 12:9-10

Know and remember this basic truth. **God is more concerned with...**

- *Your character than your creativity.*
- *Your holiness than your happiness.*
- *Your surrender than your service.*

“And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain...giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God...”

~II Corinthians 6:1, 3-4a

George Müller (1805–1898) was born in **Kroppenstaedt, Prussia**, the son of a tax collector. Before he became a Christian, George had the reputation of being a liar and a thief. After accepting Christ as his personal Savior, he was used in remarkable ways to provide for over 10,000 orphans during his lifetime.

Müller became the director of the **Ashley Down orphanage** in **Bristol, England**, where he cared for **10,024 orphans** during his lifetime, and provided educational opportunities for the orphans to the point that he was even accused by some of raising the poor above their natural

station in British life. He established 117 schools which offered Christian education to more than 120,000.

Müller once told of all God’s goodness to him and what he believed to be the secret to his deep joy. He believed that there were *two reasons* for all the blessings which God had given him...

- One, he had been *enabled by grace* to *maintain a clear conscience* before God every day.
- Secondly, he was a *lover of God’s Word*.

A *clear conscience* results from *walking by faith...trusting the sovereignty of God...*and from *complete obedience* to God day by day. This results in *fellowship with God* that comes from *being in His Word* everyday and *communing* with Him in *prayer*. That is *absolute surrender*.

Such a life has two sides...

- On one side, *absolute surrender* is to the *will of God... knowing* and *doing* the will of God.
- On the other side, *absolute surrender* is to let *God work* what *He* purposes to do *in* and *through* you.

“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

~Philippians 2:13

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

~Philippians 1:6

Peter...broken and *absolutely surrendered* (**Luke 22:62**) was restored in **John 21** and later preached on the **Day of Pentecost**.

This year...Don’t Resolve...Surrender!

To sum everything up...**Psalm 51:1-4, 10-13, 14b-17.**