

## 25 Days of Going Deeper – Week 1: Surrender (Psalm 25:1)

### April 28, 2025: Day 1- Letting Go of Self

**Scripture:** *Psalm 25:1 (NLT) – “O Lord, I give my life to you.”*

#### **Reflection:**

Surrender is a word that can feel unsettling. It often brings to mind the idea of giving up or losing control. But in God’s kingdom, surrender isn’t about defeat—it’s about trust. When we hold tightly to our own plans, we limit ourselves to what we can see and understand. But when we surrender to God, we release the burden of figuring everything out on our own and allow Him to lead us. The good news? His plan is always for our good (Jeremiah 29:11). When we insist on doing things our own way, we often end up on the wrong path (Proverbs 14:12), but when we give control to Him, He leads us exactly where we need to go.

With God, surrender isn’t about loss—it’s about gain. When we lay down our plans, ambitions, and even our fears, we’re not abandoning our identity; we’re stepping into the fullness of who He created us to be. Isaiah 55:8-9 reminds us that God’s ways are so much higher than ours, beyond what we could ever imagine. Even when we don’t see the full picture, we can trust that His way is better.

God doesn’t just ask for a part of us—He wants all of us. Romans 6:13 challenges us to offer every part of ourselves to Him, not just the areas we’re comfortable with. Jesus put it this way: *“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross and follow me”* (Mark 8:34). True surrender isn’t about giving up—it’s about choosing to follow. Paul summed it up in Galatians 2:20: *“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”*. When we surrender, we let Christ take the lead, and in doing so, we find the deepest fulfillment—not just in this life, but for eternity (Luke 6:22-23).

**Challenge & Next Steps** So today, let’s ask ourselves: What are we still holding onto? What would happen if we truly let go and trusted God with everything? Surrender isn’t a loss—it’s the beginning of something greater. Write down a prayer of surrender, offering those things to God.

**Prayer:** *Father, I surrender my plans, my desires, and my life into Your hands. Today, I give everything over to You and rest in Your care. Help me to trust You fully and walk in Your ways. In Jesus’ Name Amen.*

**Worship Song:** *I Surrender – Hillsong Worship*

**25 Days of Going Deeper – Week 1: Surrender (Psalm 25:1)****April 29, 2025: Day 2- Freedom in Surrender**

**Scripture:** *John 8:36 (NLT) – "So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."*

**Reflection:**

The world sees freedom as doing whatever we want, but Jesus teaches that true freedom comes from surrendering to Him. The Bible tells us that we are all controlled by something—we are either slaves to sin or surrendered to righteousness. *"Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living."* (Romans 6:17-18, NLT). When we give our lives to Jesus, we are freed from sin's control and led into a life of peace and purpose.

This freedom is not permission to live however we choose. Galatians 5:13 (NLT) warns, *"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."* True freedom is living in the power of the Holy Spirit, no longer trapped by guilt or destructive habits but free to love and follow Christ.

Though surrender may seem like losing control, it actually brings the greatest peace. Romans 8:2 (NLT) says, *"And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death."* Letting Jesus lead means trusting that His ways are better than ours. We belong to Him, and in Him, we are truly free.

Why do we sometimes still struggle? Often, we hold onto old habits instead of embracing the new life God offers. Romans 6:12 (NLT) says, *"Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires."* Galatians 5:16 (NLT) reminds us, *"So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves."*

**Challenge & Next Steps:** What areas of your life need to be surrendered? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what needs to be given to Him. Write it down, pray over it, and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you daily in freedom.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, You have set me free from sin and death. Help me to let go of anything holding me back to walk fully in the freedom of Your Spirit. In Jesus' Name Amen.*

**Worship Song: No Longer Slaves – Bethel Music**

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### April 30, 2025: Day 3- Mary, An Example of Surrender

**Scripture:** *Luke 1:38 (NLT) – "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."*

#### Reflection:

Mary's life was a powerful example of surrender. She was a young, humble woman from a small town when the angel Gabriel appeared to her with an unimaginable message—she would give birth to the Son of God. Rather than resist or question God's plan, she responded in faith: *"I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."* (Luke 1:38, NLT). Her willingness to embrace God's will, despite the uncertainties, demonstrates the heart of true surrender.

Mary's surrender was not without cost. Accepting God's plan meant facing potential disgrace, misunderstanding, and even danger. Yet, she chose obedience over fear, knowing that God's purpose was greater than her own. Later, in her song of praise, she declared, *"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed."* (Luke 1:46-48, NLT). Her trust in God's faithfulness allowed her to surrender fully, and in doing so, she became part of the greatest story ever told.

Surrendering to God does not mean life will be easy. Mary witnessed the hardships her Son endured, ultimately standing at the foot of the cross as He suffered for the sins of the world. Yet, her surrender was not in vain—she saw God's promises fulfilled. In the same way, when we surrender our lives to God, He uses us in ways beyond what we could imagine. Philippians 2:13 (NLT) reminds us, *"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."*

**Challenge & Next Steps:** Reflect on Mary's attitude of surrender and willingness to follow as the Lord's servant. Pray for the courage to embrace His will and walk in obedience.

**Prayer:** *Father, help me to surrender like Mary, trusting in Your plan even when I don't understand. Give me the faith to say, 'Let it be to me according to Your word.' Use my life for Your glory. Amen.*

**Worship Song: Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) – Hillsong United**

## 25 Days of Going Deeper – Week 1: Surrender (Psalm 25:1)

### May 1, 2025: Day 4- David, An Example of Surrender

**Scripture:** *Psalm 37:5 (NLT) – "Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you."*

#### **Reflection:**

David's life was filled with moments of walking closely with God. As a young shepherd, he faced Goliath with unwavering faith, declaring, *"The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!"* (1 Samuel 17:37, NLT). God chose him to be king, anointing him to lead His people. David was a strong warrior, a wise ruler, and a man who sought God's direction. Yet, in spite of these incredible moments of faith and victory, there came a time when he strayed far from God's path. His lowest point came when he gave in to temptation with Bathsheba, leading to adultery, deception, and even murder (2 Samuel 11). At that moment, David had completely strayed from the path of righteousness. He was not only a king but a man who had been after God's own heart, and yet he fell into deep sin.

When confronted by the prophet Nathan, the weight of his sin became unbearable. But instead of running further from God, David repented and cried out, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me."* (Psalm 51:10-11, NLT). David's story reminds us that believers, even those deeply committed to God, can sometimes get off track. Yet, Jesus always invites us to return, to confess and to be forgiven. *"If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."* (1 John 1:9, NLT). Surrender leads to restoring our relationship with God, no matter how far we may have wandered.

**Challenge & Next Steps:** Are there areas in your life where you have wandered from God? Like David, surrender them to Him today. Confess, seek His forgiveness, and ask Him to renew a right spirit within you.

**Prayer:** *Lord, I surrender my failures and weaknesses to You. Create in me a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Thank You for Your grace that restores me when I fall. Help me to walk closely with You each day. Amen.*

**Worship Song: Give Me Faith – Elevation Worship**

## 25 Days of Going Deeper – Week 1: Surrender (Psalm 25:1)

### May 2, 2025: Day 5- Daily Surrender

**Scripture:** *Luke 9:23 (NLT) – "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.'"*

**Reflection:**

Surrender is not a one-time event; it is a daily choice. Jesus made it clear that following Him requires a continual posture of surrender: *"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me."* (Luke 9:23, NLT). Every day, we are faced with the decision to either follow our own desires or yield to God's will. True discipleship means waking up each morning with a heart ready to trust and obey Him.

This daily surrender is not about losing ourselves but about finding true life in Christ. Jesus said, *"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."* (Luke 9:24, NLT). When we surrender, we let go of pride, selfishness, and control, allowing God to shape our lives according to His perfect plan. Surrendering daily also means relying on God's strength, not our own. Romans 12:1 (NLT) urges us, *"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him."* Worship is more than singing songs on Sunday—it is a lifestyle of surrendering our hearts, minds, and actions to Him each day. The more we surrender to Christ, the more we experience His peace and guidance. Daily surrender is a journey of learning to trust Him completely and letting Him lead every step of the way.

**Challenge & Next Steps:** What does daily surrender look like in your life? Each morning, pray and commit your day to the Lord, inviting Him to lead you.

**Prayer:** *Lord, today I choose to surrender my plans, my worries, and my desires to You. Lead me, guide me, and help me to trust You in every decision. Let my life be a living sacrifice, honoring You in all I do. Amen.*

**Worship Song: Lead Me to the Cross – Hillsong Unite**