

## Devotional 1

Source: <https://timewarpwife.com/daily-devotion-what-it-truly-means-to-surrender/>

### Thought

What it truly means to surrender? Life is chaotic at times, but I've come to learn that sacrifice is key to controlling the chaos. The World Dictionary defines "sacrifice" this way: a surrender of something of value as a means of gaining something more desirable or of preventing some evil.

The truth is, if I only did what I wanted to do, my life would be upside down. I'd rather stay in bed than get up. I'd rather mess than clean up. I'd rather be surfing the net than folding my laundry. And I'd rather eat chocolate than salad.

Every day we make thousands of choices, some of them easy, and some not so much. Some of them force us to give up what feels good as we choose that which is good. Others move us to step out of our comfort zone to a place of sacrifice as we follow God's will.

The Bible tells us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. What he's telling us here is to surrender ourselves to the Lord. The word surrender is the same word we use in the transfer of property when ownership is transferred from one party to another.

Paul understood this transfer of ownership when in Galatians 2:20 he writes, "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

When we surrender our lives, we give up ourselves minute-by-minute day-after-day. We give up our will. We give up our fears. We give up our comfort. And we give up control.

One does not surrender a life in an instant. That which is life-long can only be surrendered in a lifetime. – Jim Elliot

## Devotional 2

Source: <https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2022/06/09/surrendering-isnt-the-same-as-giving-up>

### Thought

With no solution to my problem in sight, I uttered the frustrated phrase “I give up!” Just because we feel defeated doesn’t mean we are left for dead. Quite the opposite! From the depths of our heart, a little signal pings and fires a rescue flare called hope. That’s the difference between us and the world. Our hope is never lost.

In my kitchen that day, hope began to bubble to the surface. Instead of giving up, I found my lips praying a different set of words: Jesus, I surrender. Nobody likes to raise a white flag. We’ve been taught that more is better, and failure is not an option. The world tells us, “You can do it all!”

In reality, we can’t, nor do we need to. But we try. We overextend our time, overextend our abilities and overextend our resources. Yet all of this overreaching just leaves us gripping the end of our rope. Learned that in these moments swelling with frustration, we have a choice. We can choose to sit with the enemy in defeat or surrender to the Lord in victory. As we surrender to the Lord, our giving up is replaced by His lifting up, as our key verse says:

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7).

As we raise our white flag and cry out to Jesus, He rescues us from the depths. When we humble ourselves before the Lord, we begin to see His mighty hand at work. While we rest safely under God’s care, He will lift us up in due time ... and His timing is always perfect.

Surrendering isn’t the same thing as giving up — not when God is involved. Submitting to God means humbly placing ourselves at His feet. Then we give up our desire for control and our pride.

Under the care of God’s mighty hand, we release the need to know *when*, *why* and *how*. Faith finds us resting in His power, peace and provision. This different surrender is a dying of self, and in it we begin to walk in fresh, new life with Christ.

Are details of this day causing your head to droop? Help is on the way. Hope is bubbling to the surface even now. When we find ourselves at the end of our rope, let’s instead cast our anxiety on the Lord. Nestle under the protection of God’s mighty hand because He cares for you. Rest there. Don’t give up in defeat today; surrender to the Lord.

### Prayer

Dear Lord, You are my steadfast hope and rescue. Thank You for lifting me out of my frustration and into the tender care of Your mighty hand. I surrender all worry and anxiety of this day to You, Jesus, and rest in Your victory. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

## Devotional 3

Source: <https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2023/01/03/whether-i-strive-or-surrender-he-is-steadfast>

### Thought

At its crux, the good news of the gospel is that its goodness doesn't depend on our actions. Regardless of what we do or choose, God remains constant, steadfast and faithful.

We can see clear evidence of God's consistent, never-changing love in Deuteronomy 7:9, our key verse: *"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations ..."* After the Israelites fled their captors in Egypt and walked across dry land in the Red Sea, (Exodus 14) God faithfully and continually led them through the wilderness using a pillar of fire and cloud. The Hebrew name used for God in Deuteronomy 7:9, *EI HaNe'eman* — meaning "the God who is faithful" — speaks to the character of God, even when the Israelites forgot all He had done for them.

Much of the Israelites' story is rooted in their own striving. They took matters into their own hands when they didn't like where God was moving — they created images to worship instead of worshipping the one true God. Their frustration with God's timing led them to disobedience and stubbornness. But despite their striving, God remained faithful to them at every point. His steadfast love didn't skip over them but continued for a thousand generations. And it's the same for us today.

Whether we choose to continue striving in our own strength or to surrender and slow down, God's steadfast love will remain the same. God doesn't love us more because we choose to surrender rather than to strive. But in surrendering, we have the opportunity to experience exponentially more joy by walking in obedience to Him. We come to know Him more intimately, and we are freed from the shame of continually striving.

If you're in a place of hesitantly slowing down and stepping into a season of surrender, you'll find that His steadfast love stays constant. No longer striving, you can offload the weight of shame that tells you that you aren't enough and aren't doing enough. Then, entering into the rest of a slower pace, you'll find the fullness of joy in communion with the creator and sustainer of your soul. That reward of surrender is something striving can never bring.

### Prayer

*Heavenly Father, I long to experience the fullness of joy that comes from obedience and intimacy with You. Help me to trust and to surrender to You instead of relying on my own strength and striving. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*