

The Long Surrender

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1Corinthians 6:20

From the earliest age humans display possessive behavior. Little ones will grab a forbidden item and parents will need to pry the baby's fingers off in order for them to let go. Similarly, adults have belongings they once used or enjoyed but for years those items have gone unused, yet they cannot be surrendered to the garbage dump. There are also the matters of man's sinful nature such as pride which often restrains a person from letting go of ungodly behaviors.

Our coming to the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation began with a surrender, but that surrender is only the beginning of a lifetime of submission. The infancy of our new spiritual life in Christ is a wonderful time. Understanding deliverance from eternal punishment and experiencing a fresh and vibrant relationship with God brings much joy to the soul. But it is not long before we realize that being born again does not totally eradicate our old nature. Anger, jealousy, self-centeredness, stubbornness, all of which are rooted in pride, can resurface at any time. Thankfully, believers possess the Holy Spirit who produces a conviction that is meant to motivate us to weed these things out of our life. Similarly to weeding a garden, spiritual weeding is something that needs to be done on a regular basis. Situations will arise that summon up the depraved part of our nature and bring to the surface behaviors and responses that are a poor reflection of our Savior. Understanding we have been *bought with a price*, and *we are not our own* anymore, we must daily determine to surrender our will and submit to God's will. A large part of our sanctification process, which continues for all of our time on earth, is surrendering to our Lord. His plan is that we glorify Him in all areas of our life. Being a new creature in Christ, worldly ways and habits things are to pass away and be replaced by the new things that are pleasing to God. A corn of wheat will not produce fruit unless it falls to the ground and dies, but when it does it brings forth more fruit. When we are able to surrender and put to death our unbecoming ways, it enables us to experience the growth of spiritual fruit in our life.

Jesus taught that when we lose our life, we actually find real life; likewise, when we surrender things to Him we find a greater level of freedom. May the Holy Spirit remind us every day to surrender to the One who purchased our redemption.

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