

A Surrendered Life



Recovery is about living a surrendered life. The first three steps are especially about surrender:

1. I can't,
2. God can,
3. So, I'll let Him!

Life controlling problems such as alcohol or drug abuse are only a manifestation of a greater underlying cause. The real issue is self-centeredness. Self-centeredness is when we are in control of our own life and carrying out our own plan in our own strength and wisdom. Maybe Jesus is resident in your life, but not President.

The problem with this approach to life is that it doesn't work, and that God never intended one person to live this way. Some people seem to get away with it quite well for a while, but it eventually leads to emptiness and brokenness.

God intended us to be in fellowship with Him in all that we do. He has a plan for our lives and providentially orchestrates our circumstances to provide all the wisdom, time, energy, resources and power to carry out His plan

Seemingly well-adjusted people seem to cope well without God being in control of their lives. However, in the end they find that everything done apart from the Lord is without true purpose and meaning. Some never find true peace and joy because their stubborn self-sufficiency resists the blessings of the Lord.

In a sense, dysfunctional people are fortunate that they can't manage their own lives. It forces us to turn to the Lord who restores us to the way he originally intended us to live. It is the easier softer way – God is the one who does the work – we go along for the ride.

God does not call us to perform for Him. He calls us to be yielded (surrendered) to Him and He performs through us. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NIV) "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal 2:20 NIV)

When we learn to live a surrendered life, we are generally happy, joyous and free and experiencing the fruits of the Spirit. A self-centered life eventually produces "fruits of the flesh" such as: anxiety, depression, anger, worry, doubts, fears, inferiority, insecurity and inadequacy. Not a pretty way to live.

It would seem the choice is simple – either misery or happiness. Who would knowingly engage in a self-defeating, self-destructive approach to life? God created us as objects of His love. Mostly, He wants us to be in fellowship with Him so he can love us. "God is Love." I encourage you to offer (surrender) yourself as a living sacrifice and allow the Lord to bless you beyond your hopes and dreams.