

Surrender To Win!

Psalms 116

Surrender: To relinquish possession or control of to another because of demand or compulsion.
To give up in favor of another.

Surrender: Follows the moment you open your eyes to the real you. The word **Surrender** infers that there has been some fight, some conflict and some pain.

Surrender: Is when you really see the dynamics of bondage and dysfunction in your life.

Surrender: Is when you finally recognize the obsessive behavior and the insanity of your life.

Surrender: Is facing the facts.

Surrender: Is taking all the aspects of the situation into consideration and making the decision to **Survive**.

Surrender: To the reality of your life. Be real and put aside your inflated ego, your fancy talk and your lies.

Complete defeat! To give up absolutely. To quit with no reservations. To put up our hands and quit fighting.

True Surrender is when you finally cry out to God and say, *"I can't Lord but, I know you and I together can."* Now we must determine whether or not we wish to continue fighting our addiction or **Surrender** to a far greater power than we ever imagined possible. **Surrender to Win!**

1. The great mystery is: "Why do some of us die addict or alcoholic deaths, fighting to preserve the *"independence of our ego,"* while others seem to sober up effortlessly. Was it God? Did they truly and totally **Surrender** their will and their life over to a Higher Power? **God, for the alcoholic is their gift of sobriety.**
2. When drugs, alcohol, sex, food, gambling, etc. influence every facet of our lives and they become the symbol of all our self-indulgence and permissiveness. When we come to realize that, by ourselves, we can do nothing to overcome their power we must come to the realization we have no recourse except to **"Surrender."**
3. We must tell the Lord that we are helpless in our daily battle to both get and remain clean and sober. Thus, by **Surrendering or Stopping the Battle** we achieve the victory. We **"Surrender to Live."**
4. Sobriety can be God's gift to us. So why not let our freedom from, drugs, alcohol, sexual issues or any worldly bondage become our: **"Gift to God!"**

Ps 115:9-12 O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. 12 The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us;

There is just one thing that will keep us from going on in God, adding to our faith and transferring our dependency from our worldly idols to God. _____ *And that is: **Ourselves!***

1. **Surrender:** In our drinking or drugging days we may have connected that word with weak and negative people. Today and in reality we must allow it to be our bridge to a deeper understanding of self. We will find that **Surrender is the essential ingredient** for spiritual growth and moving on in God.
2. When the alcoholic accepts his alcoholism, he **Surrenders** to the reality of his lifestyle. He **Surrenders** to the painful, but yet life-giving fact that his dysfunctional lifestyle is never going to be social, and that he will never have the power to overcome it.

3. Central Point.....**People Surrender to live.** To **Surrender** to live means making the decision to be a **Survivor**. We must look at our life that consisted of unwelcome behaviors and overwhelming emotions realistically and recognize that only God can give us the power through which we can be delivered.
4. Purpose it in your heart that *He alone* knows exactly what we need and *He alone* has the power to lift us up and out of even our most painful circumstance.

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1. Imagine the insanity of trying to perform surgery on ourselves. At the first hint of pain from that scalpel we would scream out in pain, stop that insanity and healing may never happen. It is just as insane to think that we can operate our own recovery and live in peace, love and joy without God.
2. To find help we must **“Surrender”** that scalpel over to God. Place our lives into the hands of the Mighty Physician because He alone knows the extent of our afflictions. He alone knows what is needed for healing and He alone has our best interests at heart.
3. Ignorance to what we can find in God’s help has always been an obstacle to our healing. And for this very reason, we should maintain that those addicted individuals who **Surrender** to the facts of their bondages are neither a coward nor weak-willed, but are rather courageous and realistic.

2 Cor 1:9-10 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, 10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,

It is suicide to continue fighting our addiction when we have no chance of victory-----
When the writing is on the wall we would do well to take heed... **Surrender to God.**

Surrender to the reality of that writing and live.

The choice is often life or death, blessings or curses. Destruction or creativity.

Good health or illness. *Even insanity or death!*

Recovery in Christ Jesus or continued pain.

The ultimate tragedy is promised in that one foolish choice to pick up that first drink or that first drug.

An evening spent alone with that bottle of booze left in the fridge.

Hanging out and in the presence of the wrong company rather than going to a meeting.

Turning that T.V. on X-Rated Channels or that computer system to pornography.

That journey toward pain and death will start in that first foolish choice.

That whispered “Yes” that should have been “NO.”

We had better stop fighting drugs, alcohol, gambling, eating disorders, pornography, illicit sex, etc. etc.
because we will:

“Never win when it comes to addiction and we will never win when it comes to sin and separation from God.”

Deut 30:19-20 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

$$2 + 2 = 4$$

The Addicted + The Substance or the Dysfunction = The Problem

Just as 2 + 2 is always 4, so we + our bondage will always = Our Problem.

1. Still holding back on God? Are you reluctant to **Surrender** to God and Recovery? Ask yourself: Am I living this wonderful and fulfilling life in active addiction? Or, as a using addict if I give up my drug of choice will it be worse than living a life sentence at hard labor?
2. Our way of addiction may have appeared okay at first, but it wasn't long before it became clear that we were on the wrong road and we had a very serious problem. **Prov 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.**
3. If we had died or die in active addiction we would have been bitterly deprived of so many of life's joys. **Surrender** means our eyes will be opened and we will become increasingly aware that God is guiding us.
4. Complete defeat! **Surrender**__To give up absolutely. To quit with no reservations. To put up our hands and quit fighting and to ensure our victory we need only to recognize this, and willingly **Surrender** our will and your life to God on a daily basis. *Turn it over...Give up the misery of active addiction for the sanity of recovery.....Give it to God....Give God control!*

Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed.

Lord Jesus:

I Surrender my will and my life over to You.

Please help me stop fighting my addiction because without You I cannot win.

You know how hard I have tried. The arguments, the losses, the arrests, the county jails, then prison. The geographical moves and the humiliations are there to see. The pain, the loneliness, the anger and the fear.

Lord, my addiction has always brought me problems. I have never gone into battle with my addiction and won. Mold me and do with me as You will.

I trust You to guide my steps, and I will walk this earth with hope that I may better do Your will.

I ask Your forgiveness and acceptance.

I welcome Your power, love and guidance in all that I do.....Amen