



LOVE GOD

SURRENDER

Spiritual Outcome Defined:

Live surrendered to the will of God, as shown in one's lifestyle, decisions, character, life missions, etc..

Spiritual Outcome Described:

It's almost inevitable that the newer follower of Christ will make a false assumption. It may not be articulated and may not even be conscious, but the perception is that because God loves us he will be certain to fulfill our hopes and dreams. We will have the job, the spouse, the financial resources, and the opportunities that otherwise would not have been available to us apart from Christ. In truth, God does love to bless us, but the further we get down the path, the more we learn the reality of what it means to "take up your cross and follow Christ" (see Matthew 16:24). Paul wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ and no longer live but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20), and John wrote that, "if anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them." (1 John 2:15). The Deepen follower of Christ has learned to fully surrender their desires, hopes, and dreams and to passionately seek God's desires, hopes, and dreams. To do so is simultaneously death and life. We die to the life we had envisioned so that we may live life freely for the greatest of goods.

"If my life is surrendered to God, all is well. Let me not grab it back, as though it were in peril in His hand but would be safer in mine!"
--Elisabeth Elliot

This depth of surrender is both powerful and profound, albeit at times painful. There is a peace gained that life circumstances can never give, and there is an empowerment that happens toward fulfilling one's true calling and the good works "God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10). It's only when we do this that we can authentically pray with Jesus, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39).

Evidence of this Spiritual Outcome in a Person's Life:

- Can name a significant disappointment that has been processed openly with God to a point of peace (peace with God and peace with the disappointment).
- Has an identifiable expectancy and excitement for the will of God in one's life.
- Can identify a time in a recent season of life where one followed God despite personal inhibitions or concerns.
- Has let go of one's own manmade vision of one's life and has fully embraced God's vision for one's life (or is passionately seeking God's vision).

Guidance

Read each passage multiple times. Then write your observations about the passage and any thoughts you have from the discernment question. What do you notice in the passage, and what does this reveal about your life?

Psalm 131

Observations:

Discernment Question: Are you at peace? Why or why not?

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Observations:

Discernment Question: To the extent that you have peace, how much of that peace is dependent on current circumstances that could change?



Matthew 16:24-27

Observations:

Discernment Question: To what extent are you attempting to gain this world?

John 5:30

Observations:

Discernment Question: To what extent is your will (over God's will) shaping your expectations of God?



Romans 12:1-3

Observations:

Discernment Question: To what extent are your desires shaped by the world's expectations rather than internal transformation from God?

Galatians 2:20

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do you like this verse? Why or why not?



Philippians 2:1-11

Observations:

Discernment Question: Are your relationships dominated by your agenda or by a desire to serve others?

Colossians 3:1-4

Observations:

Discernment Question: How great is your passion for eternal matters? How focused is your pursuit of eternal matters?



1 Timothy 6:6-10

Observations:

Discernment Question: Are you content with what you don't have?

Next Steps

What are practical next steps you will do from what you have discovered in this survey of Scripture on surrendering all to God? Include insights offered from others in your group that could be applied in your own life as well.



Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

