

The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER
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The Mission of
FBCWR:

*Connecting People
to God's Life-
Changing Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

Therefore I am
well content with weak-
nesses, with insults,
with distresses, with
persecutions, with diffi-
culties, for Christ's
sake; for when I am
weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10

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Surrender

When you see the word "surrender", what comes to mind? Losing? Giving up? Waving the white flag? It is defined by Danny Webster, "to yield to the power, control, or possession of another upon compulsion or demand". God desires surrender in His children, but the type He seeks includes a glad willingness to undergo struggle or hardship—without the compulsion.

An Example of Surrender

Let's peek in on the apostles Paul and Silas who have just been severely beaten because of their witness for Christ (Acts 16). They are imprisoned in the city jail at Philippi. Instead of complaining and plotting how to get out they begin "praying and singing praises to God". A great earthquake is sent by a pleased God that levels the prison. They are miraculously freed yet chose not to disappear into the night. They persuade the jailer not to kill himself and voluntarily stay under his guard until morning. This act of kindness spares the life of the jailer who would have surely been killed for losing prisoners. They speak the Word to the jailer and he and his household are saved. You see—God's glory was foremost, and comfort was a low priority.



Surrender is voluntarily setting aside my personal comfort and agenda for a higher purpose—the glory of God and the spread of His truth. We live in a cultural climate that stresses indulgence and self-fulfillment. We have thousands of modern conveniences, drugs and equipment that seek to remove every discomfort from our lives. "Make your life easier!" and "Why suffer?" are the messages that bombard our souls.

The Need for Surrender

But God stands ready to recruit true followers whose comfort takes a back seat to glorifying Him. I have been called recently to a physical suffering with cancer that has greatly challenged my comfort levels. I have choices every day to embrace the suffering or to fuss and complain. Some days I admit I am just kind of numb—not feeling particularly much of anything. Then God reminds me that He has a plan which brings great comfort to me, knowing that this suffering is not in vain. Surrender is easier when I know HE dwells inside me and He is ACTIVE. But one doesn't have to have a medical condition to practice surrender. Do we not need surrender to live with and love imperfect people at home? To accept that obnoxious co-worker and truly care for His soul? To speak up with the message for Christ despite the jitters? Ironically it is in surrender that we find victorious, overcoming living as we yield voluntarily to His plans.

-Joe Fornear