

**Yielding to Grace —
Cultivating the Inner Life through a Lifestyle of Surrender**

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (ESV) *“I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

Strong Side of Surrender

“A willingness to let go of things that are holding us back, to surrender them to the Lord and trust Him with possibility. It has more to do with yielding - an openness to what the Lord would want to do if we let Him, if we stop clutching and holding, and instead open up our hands, allow Him to have His way—it’s a worship word, I surrender to You Lord, I yield myself, I’m open.”
— Pastor Terry Brisbane

I. Surrender Brings Healing

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV) *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV) *“Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”*

“The proper good of a creature is to surrender itself to its Creator—to enact intellectually, volitionally, and emotionally, that relationship which is given in the mere fact of its being a creature. When it does so, it is good and happy.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

II. Surrender Brings Revelation

“God puts you in a place you’re not designed for to show you what you are designed for.”

— Unknown

III. Surrender Brings Freedom - Trusting in His Faithfulness

Hebrews 12:5-7 (MSG) *“So don’t feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as his children? My dear child, don’t shrug off God’s discipline, but don’t be crushed by it either. It’s the child he loves that he disciplines; the child he embraces, he also corrects. God is educating you; that’s why you must never drop out. He’s treating you as dear children. This trouble you’re in isn’t punishment; it’s training, the normal experience of children.”*

Romans 11:33-36 (ESV) *“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?’ ‘Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?’ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”*

Small Group Questions:

1. Take time to meditate on the following passage, have it read out loud slowly and share your thoughts on what the Apostle Paul is trying to share with the Corinthian church and how that message connects with you.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 *“Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

2. Share a time when you experienced “the strong side of surrender”: A time where you felt the need to surrender something in your life (a grudge, a desire, an addiction, a relationship, etc.) that resulted in healing, revelation, and/or freedom.
3. Share an experience where you did not surrender something you knew you should and what the result was.
4. Provided your thoughts on the Lord’s discipline as described by the author of Hebrews 12:5-7 and what resonates with you:

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5. As you look back on “Your Story”, the journey of your life, how have you seen God’s faithfulness in the midst of and after a season of challenge, turmoil and/or struggle?