



WOW: Word Of the Week

Surrender

August 4, 2021

Several years ago, I wrote an article entitled, "Surrender to what counts." The article paid tribute to Harvey Young. I give Harvey credit for cementing this thought into my thinking: "You will never be worth much to God in your Christian life until you learn to surrender to what counts."

The spiritual disciplines must include surrender. In fact, surrender may be first, the foundation of every other discipline. Surrender is the ultimate expression of thinking like Jesus (Philippians 2:5). Until we learn the lesson of complete surrender, we will continue to think it is about us and that success depends on us. Until we learn the lesson of complete surrender, we will not likely become effective servants (slaves) in Jesus' kingdom. We will continue to hang on to the values, experiences, possessions, and enjoyment of this world. We are unlikely to learn the lesson of impoverishing our physical lives in the name of enriching our spiritual lives. Harvey knew well, and modeled this lesson.

Do not be confused. I am not talking about surrender to the minutiae, trivial, or urgent. These are never worthy of being the focus of our lives.

Surrendering to what counts is not easy--because numerous tasks, good projects, and commendable activities call for our attention. Choosing the best (instead of the better or the good) is seldom seen or done without extraordinary effort. Can you grasp reality? The real world is within us, our spiritual life. What is really #1? Answer that question. That is the only thing worth giving our lives for.

Surrendering to what counts will cause us to discard as unimportant the things the world teaches us to value. Cross-carrying: that is how Jesus defines surrender. Cross-carrying as Jesus describes and demands will demote self-promotion, possessions, reputation, and the accolades of others. Decisions about how to use the blessings God bestows become difficult -- go out to eat at a very expensive restaurant, or preach the gospel and bring souls to Jesus at a mission point?

Surrendering to what counts opens new doors of genuine service and effectiveness in the Kingdom, because all that ultimately matters is the business of the King.

Dear God, help us this day to surrender ourselves fully. Help us to identify the things that really matter in life. May we surrender ourselves to what counts, because of the majesty of the one we know as Lord, through whom we come before your throne, Amen.