



*Surrender*

A BIBLE STUDY WITH  
**ANDREW NOLT**

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# CULTIVATE REVIVAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

A Bible study series.  
Designed to cultivate revival  
and to grow stronger, together.







WEEK 1

**LAY IT  
DOWN**

Then he said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

## LUKE 9:23-24

Unfortunately, it wasn't so much the case back in my school days but now that I am older and hopefully wiser, I tend to enjoy and appreciate words, language, quotes and the meanings that are attached to them. I must confess, surrender isn't a word that is at the top of my list. Or even the middle. No, if I was to make a list of favorite words, it would take quite awhile before we would find surrender on the list.

What comes to mind for you when you think of the word? For me it isn't anything good. A war or sports angle immediately comes to my mind. If the white flag of surrender is raised it means we weren't good enough, we failed the mission or the task at hand, we had a job to do and were not able to complete it. We were beaten. There were no ways out. We were trapped and we knew it. It gives off a cowardly vibe doesn't it? It's giving up, it's quitting, it's I don't want to fight anymore. You have never, and will never see the winning side being the one doing the surrendering. In short, surrender means you lost, or so we have been wired to think.

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Our mindset is skewed into thinking that surrender is some sort of weakness within us.

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I think that is part of the battle with surrender, our mindset is skewed into thinking that it is some sort of weakness within us. This is tough for our earthly trapped minds to wrap around. The other part of course is that we just love being in control, or maybe I should say the illusion of being in control. I think we all learned

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Disease, heartache and loss serve as quick reminders that the life we thought we had control of, can get turned upside down in a blink of an eye.

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a pretty valuable lesson during the Covid-19 shutdowns of 2020, we aren't in control as much as we like to think. Disease, heartache, and loss serve as quick reminders that the life we thought we had control of, can get turned upside down in a blink of an eye. We still love the feeling that control can bring. We begin to follow the pattern that "I am the one who is directing my steps and in turn, I will end up where MY steps will lead."

Luke 9:23,24 "And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but

whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.'"

This passage sounds kind of like a brain teaser doesn't it? Especially when we take into consideration the thought processes of the earlier text of this study. It is one of those verses that you have to go back and read over and over because you are pretty sure you misread it. Once we wrap our minds around it the best we can, what a decision it is for us to make!

If you are like most people, you probably want a life where the world will look at you and be impressed. If this is your pursuit, you will lay your head on your pillow every night and there will be void. There will be emptiness that you won't be able to fill, no matter how hard you try. If you don't want to count the cost of surrender, then go ahead and keep your life in your hands. Just know that the end result will be loss. You want a life full of adventure, purpose, and worth? Lay it down and watch what God can do with a surrendered life. Oh, and when you do lay it down, that is when you will actually be winning at this thing called life. The choice is yours.



**YOU WANT A LIFE FULL OF ADVENTURE, PURPOSE  
AND WORTH? LAY IT DOWN AND WATCH WHAT  
GOD CAN DO WITH A SURRENDERED LIFE.**



# THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

In practical, 21st century, terms, what does taking up your cross daily look like? \_\_\_\_

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Do I honestly feel that surrendering to God would actually be a benefit to my life? \_\_

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WEEK 2

# TRUSTING GOD

A scenic view of a harbor in Copenhagen, Denmark, featuring colorful buildings and numerous sailboats docked along the waterfront. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is overcast. The buildings are multi-story and painted in various colors like yellow, orange, and blue. Many sailboats with tall masts are docked along the pier. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and historic.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

## GENESIS 3:1

Have you ever thought about why it is so hard to surrender? To lay down things in our lives that, if we are being honest, we know aren't that big of a deal and shouldn't be an issue to lay down? I believe it ties into this early account in Genesis. We (the human race) couldn't even make it into the 4th chapter of Genesis before we mess things up. I am not here to point the finger at Adam and Eve, I may have not made it out of the 1st chapter before letting my guard down! But here we see the enemy put on a clinic of putting doubt in our minds.

Genesis 3:1 “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

The enemy is so good at what he does. Did God really say?... Here we are some 2,000+ years later and at the core of every lie and every temptation, you will hear the enemy posing the same question “Did God really say?”, “Can you be sure you can trust Him?”, “How can you possibly be sure that He has your best in mind?”

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Eve chooses to trust the serpent, more than the God who created her.

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Eve takes what is a perfect surrendered relationship with God, a relationship un-jaded by mistrust and deceit and, she loses it all by misplacing her trust. She chooses to trust the

serpent, more than the God who created her and in turn, humanity deals with this consequence every day.

Trust. Interesting that the first tactic the enemy uses in the battle of us living surrendered to Christ is to plant a seed of doubt. If he can get us on a path to question or doubt even for a moment what God has done for us, he is off to a great start. That is what I find so amazing in the examples we have in the Word that we will dive into later in the series. In the coming examples, the enemy plants doubt but his targets give no hesitation, no pause, no room for him to gain a foothold in their situations. Their decision for faithfulness seems to have already been made, even before the enemy can ask the question.

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To be trusted is a  
greater compliment  
than to be loved.

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One of my favorite quotes comes from Scottish Minister George MacDonald, “To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved.” As a father myself, there is nothing that my kids could ever do that could ever make me love them more or less. Being their dad is one of my favorite things in life and they couldn’t do anything to change that. I love them more than anything, but that doesn’t mean I trust them. Their actions and deeds have no effect on my love, but their actions and deeds will absolutely affect how much I can trust them.

I think MacDonald’s quote was speaking more to our human relationships but I think it can transcend into our walks with God just as well. It is fairly easy for me to love God, especially when things are going good. Who am I kidding, loving Him is very easy for me in those cases! But can I trust Him, do I believe Him? In Romans it says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” Do I trust Him when He asks to remove something in my life?



It is the core of surrender, the main ingredient, the main point. Do I trust Him? Here is a simple question that gets deeper the more you meditate on it. Do you trust God? Your knee jerk reaction as a believer and follower of Christ may be “of course!!” That isn’t a bad thing, don’t feel guilty for that answer, hopefully you can still answer it that way after a little bit of further discussion. Now, let’s answer a different question; How well do you do at surrendering? When God exposes something in your life, good, bad or indifferent that needs to be cut off, or pruned as John 15 describes, how quickly are you to act upon His orders? Do you give a quick, obedient response or is there a delayed, calculated response after weighing the pros and cons of laying aside what He has asked you to lay down.

By now you know where this is heading. The 2 questions posed are linked closely together. If I answer that I trust God but struggle to surrender things in my life that I hold too close, then I have a problem. Surrender is the ultimate show of respect that says, “God, I trust You to not only take out the things in my life that are hindering me, but I also trust that You will not just let that void remain empty. You will fill it with something that will make me more in the likeness of You”. It is the trusting of losing life’s invaluable things and instead being filled with what matters to Him.

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Surrender is the trusting of losing life’s invaluable things and instead being filled with what matters to Him.

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**GOD, I TRUST YOU TO NOT ONLY TAKE OUT THE THINGS IN MY LIFE THAT ARE HINDERING ME, BUT I ALSO TRUST THAT YOU WILL NOT JUST LET THAT VOID REMAIN EMPTY. YOU WILL FILL IT WITH SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE ME MORE IN THE LIKENESS OF YOU.**

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WEEK 3

# LEAVE THE NETS



As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

## MATTHEW 4:18-20

One of my favorite scripture passages comes from the texts where Jesus calls the first disciples. Matthew, Mark and Luke all capture their own versions of it but my favorite wording comes out of Matthew’s text in chapter 4. “As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.”

There is a ton here that we could discuss but, did you catch the surrender? It’s easy to miss it while reading through it. 19 THEY LEFT THEIR NETS 20 THEY LEFT THE BOAT. There are so many things I love about that word picture, I have trouble knowing where to start. Their nets and boats are everything. They are comfort, they are what they know and have always known. They are their past, they are their present and they are their future. They are what will put food on tomorrow’s table, and the next day and the next. I love to imagine how different and challenging their ministry would have been had the

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disciples kept a hold of their nets. Everything that Christ had planned for them, would call them to, and ask of them probably could have still been accomplished even with a cumbersome net wrapped around their shoulders and neck. But just because the work maybe still could have been done doesn't mean it would have been a good idea to bring the nets along. The work and calling Christ has for them will be a more pleasant experience for everyone involved if they choose leave their nets behind.

That is still the case for His callings on our lives today. As we find with most of our biblical examples, there seems to be no hesitation to the calling. It seems to be an immediate

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There is a following  
that is overflowing  
with surrender.

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dropping of the nets and following. Before talking themselves out of it, before letting the doubt creep in, before the "let me pray about it" excuses can leave their lips. There is a following that is overflowing with surrender. An essence of, I am not bringing what I know, what I am comfortable with, what I am used to but, just a simple obedience of what this Man has called me to and I am going to follow.

So let's bring it back us. How are we doing when it comes to our following of Christ? Have we left the nets of our past behind or do we pick them up each morning? Do we toss them on our back then get frustrated when it seems like our relationship and the things Christ calls us to is hindered by it? I find it amazing how I can look at a passage like this and say to myself, "That would have been so stupid of the disciples to follow Christ while carrying their nets with them." But then each day I have to fight the urge to not willingly pick up the net of offense, bitterness, and anger and drag it along with me. How can I expect my day to day walk with Christ to not to be affected? That makes no sense.

How about the good things in life that have served their purpose but God is done with them and is ready to start a new thing? He can't however because we are still attached to

the “good thing.” There isn’t anything easy about letting things go, both good or bad.

I know it’s tough, if it were easy, everyone would be doing it. May we be open to the Lord daily, leading us to a place of understanding and truly believing that the things He has placed in our lives are not our own, even life itself. Maybe then we can start to loosen the grip we have on some things in our lives and truly be able to start surrendering, knowing He has something better for us in mind.

How difficult is it for me to let go when God exposes something in my life that needs to be cut off, left behind and no longer carried? Obedience isn’t difficult when the request is easy, right? My kids have no trouble obeying me when I ask them to eat their ice cream. When I ask them to eat their vegetables then, the obedience is a little bit more difficult.

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Obedience isn’t  
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**MAY WE BE OPEN TO THE LORD DAILY, LEADING US TO  
A PLACE OF UNDERSTANDING AND TRULY BELIEVING  
THAT THE THINGS HE HAS PLACED IN OUR LIVES ARE  
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# THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

What “nets” of my life do I have a problem laying down? \_\_\_\_\_

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How have the “nets” I choose to carry, been a hindrance in the work He has for me? \_\_\_\_\_

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A close-up photograph of a yellow plastic crate filled with fresh fish, likely salmon, against a dark background. The fish are piled together, showing their silvery scales and some red markings. The crate is made of yellow plastic and is positioned diagonally in the frame.

WEEK 4

# DAILY SURRENDER



Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham.

## GENESIS 22:1a

How do we go about wrapping up a series on surrender? How about we go back to Genesis with another great example. Outside of Christ Himself, it may be a challenge to find a more surrendered life than the life of Abraham. Let's look a little bit at his journey.

For 10 pretty wild chapters, we see God continually moving Abraham from one place to the next. There seems to be constant change, living with relatives, then being separated and much more. Through all the change, through all the upheaval, in Abraham, God always seems to find a man on whom He can rely on, a man who He can count on. What a testimony for us to pursue, to be a man or woman who God can rely on. When work needs to be done for the Kingdom, will God find us capable, empty handed and ready to carry it out?

For 10 chapters we get interesting story after interesting story with Abraham. Wicked cities have been destroyed and 90 year old ladies have got pregnant just to name a few. But then we come to chapter 22 and here we see Abraham faced with his most difficult and crazy request of surrender to date. His own son. The son who God promised which was born of senior citizens. The son through whom God said Abraham's descendants would outnumber the stars. How could this be? How is this OK? How is this fair? How does this even make sense? We all know

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When work needs to be done for the Kingdom, will God find us capable, empty handed and ready to carry it out?

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how the story goes, early the next morning. I said EARLY!! Abraham packs up everything and everyone and starts the half week journey to where God is calling for the sacrifice to

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Abraham has obedience and belief that God knows what He is doing.

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be made. I can only speak for myself but, I don't think I am leaving the NEXT day and I can promise you that it isn't going to be an early departure. No, instead there will more than likely be a few days of doubting this call from God. There will be a fair share of questioning how could this be His voice after all He has brought me to and through. But not Abraham. The God who has always been faithful has called him to another step of surrender and there is no question, no delay, no hesitation. Just obedience and belief that God knows what He is doing.

So why do we wrap up the series with this story? It's in the first words of chapter 22. NKJV- Now it came to pass after these things. The Message- After all this. NIV/NLT- Some time later. I find it very telling and interesting that these words start this chapter and then in the following verses, God will ask Abraham to surrender his most prized "possession." I especially like the NKJV and Message because it brings attention to the "things" in the prior 10 chapters. After all these things, all the movings, all the hardships, all the family strife, all the destruction, all the miracles, all the prospering, all of the prior times in which God has found Abraham faithful to His leadings, ALL of it. Then and only then, does God ask for this ultimate act of surrender from Abraham.

I could be wrong and am willing to be corrected about this but, I don't know that Abraham would have acted on sacrificing Isaac had he not been through what God had brought him through in the previous chapters. No, instead it was a lifetime of daily surrender that led Abraham to this point. It was being faithful in the little things that led him to being in a place where God could ask this prize of him. It was his faithfulness in the mundane, the simple, the ordinary that caused him to be ready to surrender even the difficult things because he knew who this God was, who was asking it of him. It was his daily walking

with God that let him know that He could be trusted. Even when it didn't make sense, like sacrificing his own promised miracle of a son.

When the eyes of God search earth for people, vessels ready to further His Kingdom work, may they come to rest on us. May we be the ones who walk by His side seeking Him, learning to trust Him more, falling more in love with Him each and every day. May we understand that He has our best in mind with every request He could ever ask of us. May we be ready to let go of anything that could possibly be a hindrance to the work He has for us.

Philippians 3:7-8 “But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.”

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# THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

What is the most difficult thing you have surrendered to God? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do I sense fear or worry that God may ask of the most precious "things" from me? \_\_\_\_\_

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