

# GIVE YOURSELF AWAY

Part 4: Give Yourself Away  
to Surrender

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## Who or what gets the best of you?

Control often gets the best of us.

### God's Call to Surrender

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?" – *Luke 9:23-25*

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. – *John 12:24*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. – *Romans 12:1-2*

### A moment of complete honesty:

Who is driving your life?

### What do we need to know about surrender?

- 1) God calls us to surrender control (*Luke 9:23*)
- 2) Surrender is not passive; it's a courageous and active decision (*Romans 12:1*)
- 3) Surrender needs to happen daily (*Luke 9:24*)
- 4) You can't will yourself to victory, you have to surrender your will (*John 12:24*)

### Taken from 12 Steps: A Spiritual Journey:

- STEP 1 We admitted we were powerless over the effects of our separation from God – that our lives had become unmanageable (*Romans 7:18*)
- STEP 2 We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity (*Philippians 2:13*)
- STEP 3 We made a decision to hand our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him (*Romans 12:1*)

(Continues on back)

5) On the other side of surrender is freedom and life

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. – *John 10:10*

**When it comes to surrender, we have three options:**

- 1) Take the wheel (live with a rebellious heart towards God)
- 2) Grab the wheel (live with a divided heart)
- 3) Surrender the wheel (live with a surrendered heart)

**I choose #\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Next Steps**

- **Alpha:** If you're new to church or have recently accepted Jesus as your Savior, we'll bet have a lot of questions. The Alpha Course answers your questions and introduces you to the most basic truths of Christian life. **9 Monday nights starting February 15;** details on back of today's program.
- **Baptism:** If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, you can "go public" with that decision by being baptized **next weekend.** Details on the blue insert in today's program. *Please note: Children's baptism classes have already occurred.*

**On Your Way Home**

**Driver:** Tell the people in the car what it feels like to be in control of the vehicle.

**Passengers:** Tell the driver what it feels like to not be in control of the vehicle.

**Everyone:** Draw as many spiritual parallels as you can about your drive home.

**Small Group Discussion Questions**



- 1) What bothers you about back seat drivers? Why?
- 2) When it comes to control are you:
  - a. A raging control freak?
  - b. A moderate control freak?
  - c. A minimal control freak?
  - d. A person with an aversion to control?
  - e. A person with so many issues that you don't want to be controlled by this question so you refuse to answer it?
- 3) In what areas of your life are you a "wheel grabber?" Be specific about the areas that you tend to repeatedly take back from God? (Hint: what areas are you micro-managing for God right now?)
- 4) Surrender is often seen as defeat. How is surrender a part of spiritual victory?
- 5) Read the scriptures again. Is there something you need to surrender now?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?