

Two kinds of Surrender

Saul was the leading religious zealot of his time before coming to Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. He was fully surrendered to God as far as he was concerned. But his surrender led to murder and hatred and the torture of many people—all in obedience to God...so he thought.

It was after his conversion that Saul, now Paul looking back said that all of his surrender to God was DUNG...it was RUBBISH!! He discovered that there are two kinds of surrender to God. He was given the good news of true surrender by Jesus Himself and Paul lived inside of this surrender for the rest of his days.

While Paul lived and preached his Gospel there were many enemies who opposed him and his teaching. Those other brethren were seeking to stay within the system of OBEDIENCE or SURRENDER that Paul had been set free from. So there was kind of clash!! In the following pages I have put together a few thoughts on this clash which I have encountered myself.

There are two kinds of Surrender just as there are two kinds of righteousness and two kinds of obedience. But only ONE kind of surrender is recognised by Father God. We must flee from one kind of surrender into God Himself for that is where we already are.

Surrender to God

Over the years I have suffered many days and weeks..years in fact as I am sure many Christians have. The suffering I refer to is in the mind as a result of putting self down when we fall or think we have failed in some way. The world and most of the Church will step in to give a 10 point sermon on how to succeed as a Christian....how to please God in 10 easy lessons.

I hear a lot of my brothers and sisters sincerely wanting to become more surrendered to God. Others speak about wanting to have the evil in their hearts totally cleansed..again through surrender...or maybe obedience..or praying more..worshiping more etc etc. I have spent years doing those kinds of things. And it was not without encouragement! Many times I would go to a service and hear the preacher speaking about "surrender to God". The main idea behind the surrender theme is that we are somehow still an enemy of God..some hidden part of our heart is still in rebellion against Him. Once the preacher brings the people to some place where they are sufficiently filled with doubt about something they have done then he gives an altar call to somehow deal with this rebellion. The poor wretch goes forward publicly acknowledging his un-surrendered heart in front of every one else. Secretly he may feel that every one else is too proud to acknowledge their own rebelliousness. Or he genuinely believes he is not fully surrendered to the Lord and

he breaks and cries over something or another.

He gets prayer and finds that nothing has changed with him, he still feels like he is not surrendered to God, still rebellious, still feels condemned. What is all this about?

It is about a mix of things.

Those who preach to born again Christians that they are in rebellion to God are sadly being used as the mouthpiece of Satan. They mean well and God uses all this to bring us on in Him.

Why does any preacher preach that the saved ones are in rebellion?

For one thing, that preacher has a sin mentality or sin consciousness instead of a Jesus' blood consciousness.

It could be that the pastor wants more money in the offering or more souls invited to his services etc so he preaches surrender. Telling folk they need to surrender to God without clearly naming what they are in rebellion about is just a way of keeping them under control. Preachers who think that they have surrendered their lives to Christ will tell everyone else that they must do the same.

There is a surrendering to God of course...but God does not demand we surrender using any condemnation at all.

God's surrender in the new covenant is to believe what He says about you is true.

Instead of believing what God does not say about you, how about choosing to believe what God does say about you. Belief always involves speaking that belief.

The Accuser of the brethren- Lucifer, the Devil, the Dragon, the Serpent, the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience has got most of us running around in circles. He has successfully bewitched many Christians just like he did to the Galatians years ago.

He accuses us before the throne of God day and night. That throne is not up in heaven but is your heart! That evil spirit comes stealthily to us to remind us of our failings, our lack of obedience, our shortcomings as a parent or a son or daughter husband or wife.

He will set us up one day by suggesting in our mind that we witness to that person at work...then when we do not do it he accuses and condemns.

He may whisper to you if you are single that the reason you are single is because you are not surrendered fully to God. So you determine in your mind to pray more, read more, go to the night service as well as the morning service, tithe, even give offerings, say amen to the preaching more, lift your hands higher in worship, dance before the Lord even! Some may laugh at these things but this is life for many. Tormented by the Devil, being run

around from pillar to post trying to be more surrendered to God.

Some think that there is something wrong with their heart which they must get God to deal with. I am speaking all this from personal experience.

I want to tell you that there is nothing evil in your heart. There is no need to surrender to God. You already did that when you first believed in Jesus Christ.

God **put you to death** on the cross – you HAVE died....you HAVE been crucified with Christ. It is a past tense event that God says HAS HAPPENED TO YOU. Believe it....speak in agreement with His word about you.

You died and furthermore **ARE RISEN** with Christ and ARE right now seated with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

God says about you that you are **COMPLETE in Christ** Who is the head of all principality and power.

God says you are in the spirit and not in the flesh. God says you are acceptable to Him, pleasing to Him. God says that CHRIST IS YOUR LIFE NOW..that old you died and is no more...

There is nothing to surrender to God because all that was sin has been crucified and buried with Christ. There is nothing wrong with your heart for your heart is the very heart of Jesus Christ! Is there anything wrong with Jesus' heart?

The Accuser will attack what I am saying here in order to keep you on the treadmill of religion....to keep you setting aside the grace of God.

Believe what God says about you...that is surrender and that is what puts the Accuser to flight.

Surrender to God part 2

Surrendering to God is a very prevalent idea amongst Christians. It can bring an exasperating feeling. When you think you have given up things for God's sake and given away things as well, costly things, and still you hear a voice saying you need to surrender to God. I wanna tell you right here that is NOT GOD!

Most of us are so conditioned by our pseudo Christian culture that we do many unnecessary things and believe many silly things as a result.

What is behind this surrender idea? A false view of God. Here is that view...

God is a despot sitting upon a throne demanding strict obedience. God expects each one of us to lay down our lives and everything we love to do for Him. God

demands perfect obedience. God demands all your devotion and time. God expects perfect attendance at church services. God expects to receive your tithes and offerings. God expects your worship....oh and if you will do these things you will be happy.

Let me throw in a few more...

God expects you to love your enemies. God expects you to take up your cross daily, go the extra mile, sell all you have, forsake all you have, love Jesus more than anyone else, though Jesus is not to be seen. God is very demanding so you better start surrendering to Him.

You may be offended by my writing by now but if you are still with me let me explain. Did not Jesus tell us to do those things? It would seem that He did.

We miss something very important and that is: Jesus could do nothing of Himself. Jesus did not take responsibility for pleasing God. God does the works. Jesus abides in Father. Now as soon as you read "abide in Father" immediately many ask themselves am I abiding in Jesus? So they are thinking that it is their responsibility to make sure that they are abiding in Jesus. Abiding and surrendering.

But the truth is that YOU are abiding in Jesus my beloved friend. How can you be anywhere else other than in Jesus? The loving Father found you and drew you to Christ. When you came to believe in Jesus God applied the wonders of the Cross to you. God put you to death and raised you up in Jesus to newness of life in the Spirit.

That is your permanent place of rest. You are in Him. In Christ.

Where is Jesus Christ? He is in the Father. In the heart of the Father.

Where is the Father? In your heart!!!

Jesus said, **In that day you will know that I am in my Father and you in Me and I in you.** Jn 14:20

To believe that statement **is** full and complete surrender.

When God saved you He did not expect you to be able to do anything that Jesus said you should do.

Love your enemies.

Only God does that. How? Through people of course. But is it really love if we go out to our enemies with the thought..."Right today I am going to love my enemies." What that is is someone who thinks of themselves as being separately responsible to obey Jesus. The one who knows John 14:20 knows that they are totally unable to love anyone...it is not up

to me. I am just going to be myself and trust that Father living as me does whatever He does. I am not going to try to love anyone. Do what you want to do in every moment trusting that what you will, and what you do, is the Father's good pleasure at that moment. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he does.

Jesus came to live in you to be you! He really is your only life. And remember He Himself does nothing of himself...but Father does the works. In other words just be you. In being you, **you are** being God to others.

Thinking of yourself as a separate person from God who must obey God's commands somehow....gives rise to the idea that you must constantly surrender to God.

Nothing of the sort! You died on the cross. You have already laid down your life and taken up His cross. You and Jesus are one. The life He lives is your life. The death He died is and was your death. Now consider yourself to be dead to sin and alive to God. That means God is alive in you. God is abiding and being Himself in you....just as you are...full of inability, fears, doubts, failings....God is happy, pleased, at rest in your heart.

We hear the preacher say: "Surrender to God!! Die to yourself!!" This is a false gospel that denies the work of the Cross.

You have already died...and already surrendered to God when you believed. You are no longer an enemy of God but friends. Not one part of you is an enemy of God. Faith says so. Your flesh was crucified with Christ. You have become a sharer in the divine nature. Jesus lives in your heart by faith. You are abiding in Him.

God has a hold of you more than you realise. He has not left you an orphan, He has come to you , to live ...not only in you...but as you. Jesus said in Jn 14:20 that you will know that I am in my Father and **you in Me** and **I in you**.

"you in Me" means **everything that Jesus is**, we have been fully submerged into...joined to..made one with in complete and perfect union.

"I in you" means that **everything you are**..Jesus has been completely submerged into...joined to..made one with in complete and perfect union!

Jesus has become you and you have become Him....just enjoy Y/your life, God is pleased with what and who you are...how can He not be? You are His child, His creation. You are not naughty....you are as Jesus is in this world. 1 Jn 4:17

WHO HAS BEWITCHED YOU?

When Paul asked the Galatians “Who has bewitched you?,” he used a word not used any other time in Scripture.

The word he used tells us so much about why we so easily set aside the grace of God.

Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

The word Paul chose under inspiration of the Holy Spirit was *baskaino*. The primary meaning of this Greek word is not bewitch but to malign or to speak ill of one.

STRONG'S: to malign, that is, (by extension) to fascinate (by false representations): – bewitch. THAYER: 1) to speak ill of one, to slander, traduce him 2) to bring evil on one by feigning praise or an evil eye 3) to charm, to bewitch Part of Speech: verb

Paul clearly portrayed Jesus Christ among you as crucified

The Apostle who received his gospel from Jesus directly in the spirit always preached Christ crucified.

And he asks the question of the Galatians “who has maligned you? Who has slandered you? Who has spoken ill of you? Who has misrepresented you?”

Someone had been whispering slander in their minds changing their inner view of themselves CONTRARY to what Paul had been teaching them was their true condition in Christ.

They had had ‘Christ crucified’ preached to them so that what happened to Christ in his death, burial and resurrection was before their eyes..their inner seeing.

They had seen how when Jesus died, they died...

when Jesus was buried they were buried...

when Jesus rose from death they too arose in Him!!

It was before their eyes.

They had been given a good view of themselves in the risen Jesus.

But now something has caused them to have an evil eye towards themselves.

They had been shown by Paul that there was no darkness in them now that they are new creations...but through some ill words they now see darkness in themselves and are moved to do something extra than mere trust in Christ.

Paul had just explained so amazingly the truth of the Cross which has been applied to all who believe.

In Galatians 2:20 he told them/us that:

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live”

Your old man died with Christ on the cross, it is your reality, your condition. Believe it is so.

“Nevertheless you live.... yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.”

You live but not I..it is a new I that lives...it is Christ who lives as you..a new creature before God. Believe it is so.

“and the life which I now live in the flesh”: This new I that you are, is Christ Jesus living in your mortal body.

“I live by the faith of the Son of God,”: The new creation that you are with Jesus, lives ONLY by HIS FAITH....not by you trying to believe...but by Jesus' own faith.

Most versions say “faith in the Son of God”. That is incorrect and unbelief.

We can rest in Jesus because it is Him carrying us....even as we carry Him in our body. We know we have no faith of our own (as if we are separate from Him)....it is His faith in God which sustains us and carries us every day in every situation.

“who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Jesus gave Himself to you ...to be your very own self.

The word “gave” is amazing – it means:

1)to give into the hands (of another)

2) to give over into (one's) power or use

2a) to deliver to one something to keep, use, take care of, manage Jesus gave you his self...

That is..the story that Jesus tells Himself about Himself...He gave this to you. All that He is in the Father is yours and mine to keep and use. This is so incredible it is difficult to believe when all our life we thought everything was up to us. Then after this amazing telling of truth –telling them who they are- Paul says...

Gal 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

Righteousness does not come to us through trying to obey God. Righteousness as Paul explains everywhere is a free gift which comes through having Jesus Christ in us. Christ died so that He could live in us –as us–with us...and that NEW US–IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.

Always righteous...always holy..always pleasing to God...for Christ is our very life source and he is always in Father pleasing Him. Thus we are always in Father pleasing Him..for Jesus and I are one. This is Christ crucified. This is what Paul laboured to preach and to inculcate into every man.

Col 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Col 1:29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

“Him we preach.” Who? Christ in you the hope of glory.

Why Paul? Because the only way a believer is found perfect is to know that is it Christ in them living as them...who is pleasing and perfect to God.

Anyone who thinks himself to be something when he is NOTHING deceives himself.

Paul laboured to change the way people saw themselves. He pressed into God to preach Christ as our only life..Christ as all things in us so that the churches walked in the knowledge of Christ in all things.

This is where the power and fruit is produced....out from the exchange that has happened in us at the cross.

As the prophet said -Not by might nor by power but by My spirit says the Lord.

Yet something had happened to these Galatians who had had Christ formed in their thinking and in their hearts.

They had received a malignant word or thought about themselves which caused them to set aside the truth of their being in Christ. This malignancy prevented them from obeying(believing) the truth.

Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched(maligned, spoken ill of, misrepresented) you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

Whatever was told them caused them to see themselves as separate from Christ again. They could no longer see themselves in Christ as new creatures with Jesus Himself as their life.

Now they were back to trying to please God by their own efforts at law keeping.

If I go around saying that it is Christ in me that pleases the Father...or...I please God just the way I am....do you realise that that infuriates the Devil?...it infuriates religious spirits too.

They know that if you remain in Christ and come to abide in such a message of the cross that you are Christ in the earth. Therefore they must GET YOU TO come out of that position and truth.

They will malign you, speak evil of you, point out your failures, your inabilities and call it sin. They will try to get you to put your eyes upon your old self and make that old self "alive" again.

They want you to identify yourself with that old man who was crucified and buried. They do this through accusations in your mind. Not only through accusations aimed at your inabilities but also through feigned praise.

Baskaino carries that meaning as well. Who has baskainoed you...That is, who has been flattering you saying that you are such a good Christian...such a gifted teacher, such a holy wife...such a pure young lady in God. These flattering thoughts come to get us to focus on the old self which always wants to take the credit and be in control of doing the good stuff for God.

So today we have most of the church thinking like this.

The thinking goes like this: "I got born again by grace...but now I MUST LIVE RIGHT IN ORDER TO BE PLEASING TO GOD."

If we think like that...then we set aside the grace of God and place ourselves(only in our minds)outside of Christ and Christ outside of us.

Then His death was in vain for us for now we are trying to be made righteous by our own efforts.

I have often said that “if not for the Accuser of the brethren most churches would be empty.” Most Christians are driven on in all that they do by the fear of not doing anything for God.

When my wife and I left the church we went through severe withdrawals. The toxins of religion take a long time to be expunged from our hearts and minds. Paul chided the Galatians and said he must “labour again until Christ be formed in you.”

Gal 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

Again Paul refers to having Jesus before their eyes...the only one they see.

The accuser will malign and say “But you have to do this to please God...and that is not pleasing to God....you must keep the Sabbath.....you must love people more....you must ...you must...you must!!”

Tell yourself: “I AM at rest in Christ, I AM trusting FULLY IN CHRIST to be pleasing to God!

We get saved by His doing. He draws us to Himself. He grants repentance and faith. He comes to live in us to be the one who lives as us. It is His faith that carries us. And in the end we know where we are going for He has us completely in Himself. Doubt only comes when we think it is up to us in any way to perform well enough for God to grant us entry. Jesus is enough!!

Can you hear Grace?

I read a lot of “Christian” teaching that tells us to make sure we are keeping God’s Ten Commandments. They seem to think that a Christian is still under the Law of Moses. Can you hear the message of Grace? Abraham was imputed as righteous simply because he believed and God promised him an inheritance. Abraham was a liar and a coward. Yet even though Abraham was not perfect, God called him RIGHTEOUS by faith. Yet today many are being taught...and have been taught that they must keep God’s 10 commandments. This is not the GOSPEL...BUT IS A BURDEN that the Apostle Peter said we can not possibly carry.

Act 15:8 So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us,

Act 15:9 and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

God gave His Spirit to the new believers simply because they believed the message of Jesus death and resurrection. By receiving the Holy Spirit their hearts were purified of the old nature—receiving God's divine nature instead—Christ Jesus!!

Act 15:10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Act 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

Can you hear Peter preaching grace? Where is he telling anyone to keep the Law of Moses? Where is Peter telling anyone to keep the big 10? The Law is a heavy yoke that no one can bear. Peter says that we are saved through the GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. This grace he speaks of is the receiving of Jesus Himself when we believe. Jesus is THE GRACE of God. If you have the Son you have Life..if you do not have the Son you do not have Life. Or you could say if you believe on Jesus you are justified by faith. If you try to keep God's Ten Commandments you will never be justified. Paul repeats this crucial difference three times in one verse! Can you hear?

Gal 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Apostle Paul writes a whole letter to the Galatians to turn them back from those who were bewitching them with talk of Law and circumcision. Grace is plain to see, but because so many have had Law preached to them since they were little, they cannot hear the joyful sound. Instead they go to bed afraid that they may not have kept God's law perfectly that day. They have no real assurance for they are trusting in their own ability to keep the Law. Others think they are doing pretty good keeping God's Law and have a false sense of security based upon their perceived performance. The truth is written all through Galatians about this.

Gal 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Gal 3:25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

How clear can it be for us? The law was our tutor and now we are no longer under the tutor/law. Why?

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have(it is done!) put on Christ.

Literally verse 26 says “for ye are all sons of God through the faith in Christ Jesus, (YLT)
Not our faith in Christ...but the faith that is IN Christ. Which is as Paul said in Gal 2:20 that

“the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God...” (KJV)

NOT faith in Jesus..as if He is separated from me and I have to do my best to believe in Him. That would be a terrible covenant to call a New Covenant...that would be just like the Old Covenant in that it would be our responsibility to strive to do keep our part of the bargain.

But God found FAULT with that Old stinking covenant and has DONE AWAY with it.(Heb 8:13) We are saved and made holy by the FAITH OF JESUS HIMSELF operating in us in the Spirit. We are justified and sanctified by His faith not our own as if we are separate.

1Co 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

1Co 1:31 that, as it is written, “HE WHO GLORIES, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD.”

He drew you to come, He saved you..He chose you?...What did you do, where is boasting then? We do boast though don't we?

“Oh, I came to Jesus...I said a sinners prayer.... I made Him Lord and Saviour.”

Dear beloved child of God HE SAVED YOU....it was all His doing. We tell people to repent yet it is God who must grant repentance. We tell people to believe yet it is God who must grant sight and faith. Well that same God Who did not leave it up to you to get saved will complete you...will perfect you...in fact He has done it, and will do it.

1Th 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Th 5:24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Heb 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

We live by His Life working in us constantly. We do not live any more by a separated self trying to please God by keeping laws.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

See what brother Paul says? You are a son of God through the faith that is in Christ....and then Paul elaborates upon this statement. As if the reader is asking, "How Paul...how am I now a son of God through faith?"

He uses the same revelation as written in Romans 6 and elsewhere which was given to him by Jesus.

YOU ARE A SON OF GOD because you DIED and are now risen in Christ Jesus. You were baptised into Christ...into His death!!

When you died the Law stopped being over you. That Old Man(Ro6:6) of sin was under Law and Law kept condemning it to a just death. So you were crucified with Him so that the body of sin may be done away with. Now you are raised up to newness of life in Him....no longer under Law but placed into Christ Jesus and He placed into you.(Jn 14:20)

You live by the same life that raised Jesus from the dead. You are not separate having to keep a close eye on the Law and how well you are doing! You are freed from the Law and brought into Christ a new creature.

Those who have preached "keep the law" at you mean well, but they do the same as the people Paul fought against. They are causing you to set aside the grace of God and try to be made perfect in your own strength. Good luck with that! You have put on the Lord Jesus.....or did you forget that?

We do forget because of the strength of the law- preachers..they scare us. But beloved of God...YOU HAVE PUT ON JESUS CHRIST. That means you are IN HIM....HE IS YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS...HE IS YOUR PEACE WITH GOD....HE IS YOUR ONLY STANDING BEFORE THE FATHER.....AND YOU ARE CLOTHED FULLY WITH HIM.

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