

# Freedom Group #6

## A Life of Surrender

**Proverbs 3:5-6** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. NIV*

The word *surrender* brings many pictures, perhaps a white flag waving atop a surrounded military fort or a troop of outnumbered soldiers with their hands raised. We typically associate surrender with defeat. However, when it comes to life with Christ, the act of giving up control to Him is actually the beginning of our freedom! A life of surrender requires trust, and that trust is developed in the context of relationship.

James 4:8 / Isaiah 55:9

Sometimes, God's way of doing things doesn't make sense to us. His way of thinking is much different- and much greater- than ours. Though we don't always understand, when we make the choice to trust and obey Him, we set ourselves up for success.

What areas of my life have I not surrendered to God? Am I having a hard time trusting Him with those areas?

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God wants to make our lives smoother by being Lord over everything. It is only when He is in control that we can walk in spiritual order. Luke 14:33

Man was created to be a worshipper and we will worship what we value most. In Exodus 20:3-4, God told the Israelites not to place any gods before Him or make any kind of idol. We may think of an idol as a carved statue, but an idol is also anything we desire more than God. If we want to walk in spiritual order, God must be first.

Materialism is a common culprit of misplaced priorities in our lives!

**Ask:** Is there anything in my life that is more important than God?

**Ask:** What does Hebrews 13:5 say about our priorities?

Matthew 6:33 tells us the priority we should have. What do the proceeding verses tell us about the worries of life that we need to get past?

**Matthew 6:33** *Seek first the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.*

## LIFE GROUP BEGINS

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Relationships can come between you and God. It can be relationships with family, friends, co-workers, pastors, church members, neighbors, and even enemies. But whether good or bad, they can become more important to us than our relationship with the Lord.

In Genesis 22:1-18 Abraham faces an inconceivable situation. He has waited decades for a big promise to be fulfilled- the promise that he would be the father of nations. In Abraham's old age, God blesses him with a son, Isaac. The child grows and so does Abraham's joy. Then, one day, God tells Abraham to sacrifice the boy on an altar.

Abraham's response was that first thing the next morning he headed out with Isaac to sacrifice. We often insist on having our own way in relationships, not realizing that our attempts to control them may be detrimental. Not only are our relationships unlikely to flourish when we try to control them, they can take our focus off of God and take inappropriate priority in our lives.

### **Six Ways to Stay Unoffended**

Offense will kill positive relationships!

1. Take the lowest \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Always remain \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Give others their \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Make decisions that \_\_\_\_\_ life in others.
5. Trust God to bring \_\_\_\_\_ when an offense comes.
6. Dedicate \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.