**Let Your Light So Shine**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

**Sunday Morning**

**September 12, 2021**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Saints, in order for Born Again Believers to have their lights shine bright, their lives need to be totally surrendered to God

**To the best of your knowledge, are you fully surrendered to Jesus Christ?**

If Jesus Christ is your Savior and Lord, then this should be your wholehearted response. Although we all love the comfort of knowing that we are saved and our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, there should also be progress in every area of our lives through surrender to the will of God.

**A Surrendered Life begins at Salvation**

**John 10:27-30**

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

Saints, there is nothing we can do to save our own souls, but we must wholly trust in Jesus who bore our sins and paid the penalty we deserved.

It’s ironic that we surrender our souls to His authority for salvation yet try to control other areas of our lives. If Jesus is our Savior, and we acknowledge Him as Lord, then we should also realize that He is the Lord of our lives as well.

Yet many Christians resist full surrender to Jesus because it seems too costly, too demanding. It’s not like surrendering to another person because when we yield ourselves to God, it includes every area of our lives— even the things hidden deep within our hearts.

Yet this absolute surrender is exactly what God expects because Christ died for us, and we belong to Him.

**John 15:1-8**

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

**Full Surrender is God’s Perfect Will for our Lives**

However, Saints, the application of this principle looks different for each believer. What one person finds easy to release to the Lord, someone else may not. But we can each sense what He is asking us personally to relinquish.

It’s a conviction or that “thing” that keeps cropping up when we pray. It may be a bad attitude or habit, or it could be something that isn’t sinful but is not presently part of God’s will for our lives.

**Jesus Christ is the perfect example of full Surrender**

Saints, Jesus always did the will of His Father, yet toward the end of His life, He struggled to surrender in the Garden of Gethsemane. As He withdrew from His disciples, He prayed:

**Luke 22:42**

"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Jesus knew that He had come to die for the sins of mankind, and being fully God, He foresaw all that awaited Him as He suffered on the cross and bore the Father’s punishment for our sins.

His distress demonstrates that surrender is not always easy and can be excruciating, yet He never wavered from complete obedience to His Father’s will. There was no other way to accomplish the salvation of mankind.

Therefore, Jesus offered Himself fully to the Father and bore the penalty for our sins.

**This is the same kind of attitude we should have—not my will, but Yours be done**

Saints, in a military sense, surrender means defeat, but for a follower of Jesus, it means victory over whatever is hindering our Christian life.

It may require that we ask God to search our hearts and reveal any areas we’ve kept for ourselves. Then as He brings something to mind, we relinquish it to Him.

Once we’ve trusted Jesus as our Savior, we must recognize that we now belong to Him. Full surrender is like opening the closets of our lives and inviting Him to clean out whatever He wants.

To try to keep parts of our lives to ourselves only hinders our walk with Him. Yet we often rationalize, saying, “This one little thing isn’t that important.

After all, no one is perfect. We all have our weaknesses so God will understand.” But that’s not how the Lord operates.

**What does it mean to yield Ourselves to God?**

**Romans 12:1-2**

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Saints, yielding to God requires that we open our hearts and lives to Him, asking Him to take out whatever does not please Him. We must be willing to confess, repent, walk away, give it up, and lay it down.

Saints, until we do, we will never become the person He wants us to be or enjoy His blessings. It’s easy to paint a pretty picture of Christianity that leaves out the cost of surrender. We rejoice in answered prayer, the promises of Scripture, the security of our salvation, and heartfelt praise.

But none of these are a substitute for wholehearted obedience and surrender to God. To be a disciple of Christ means every aspect of our lives is given to Him, and it’s evident in our conduct, conversation, and character.

**What would happen if we gave ourselves fully to God?**

Saints, Jesus delights to work in our lives when we recognize Him as Lord. Such surrender affects our prayers, generosity, conversations, attitudes, families, workplaces, and interactions with those who don’t know Christ.

**How would God respond if we yielded ourselves to Him?**

**Romans 8:28**

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose”

Saints, some people resist surrendering to God because they fear He’ll take someone or something from them. The problem with this kind of thinking is that it’s based on a faulty idea of who God is.

He isn’t waiting for us to raise a white flag so He can swoop down to do something horrible to us. This is our loving heavenly Father, who is generous and kind in His blessings.

**Psalm 34:8**

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

**Psalm 119:68**

You are good and do good; Teach me Your statutes.

**Nahum 1:7**

The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.

Saints, Jesus wants us to enjoy a close relationship with Him, which is only possible for those who trust and obey Him. The Christian life is living under the leadership of the Lord Jesus, who always does what is best.

Although we may want freedom from sickness, sorrow, and heartache, the Lord sometimes uses these hardships to remove whatever is hindering our relationship with Him.

If we want to become the person, He desires us to be, we must trust and submit to His lordship.

**What is Hindering Total Surrender?**

**Is it a person, a possession, a way of life, a habit?**

Saints, the only way to discover what God could do in our lives is to let go of anything that He says is not best for us.

Although we may think we know better, we can never improve on His plan for our lives. We never lose by yielding to the Lord. In fact, that’s when life at its best begins.

**In Closing:**

**What Changes do we need to Make?**

**1. We must stop rationalizing and excusing our lack of submission to God.**

**2. Trust God! He only does what is best and always keeps His word. He will not deny us anything He’s promised.**

**3. Always remember that the safest place to be is in subjection to Him.**

**4. Surrender today, tomorrow, and every day because it’s a lifelong practice that will continue until we meet the Lord in heaven.**

**1. What are you holding onto that God is asking you to release?**

**2. What’s keeping you from surrendering it?**

**3. Are you afraid to surrender to God? If so, why?**

**4. What could you lose by surrendering?**

**5. What could you gain?**

**6. Which one has eternal ramifications?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**