

I Am Surrendered!-gm

By B. D. Tate

Recently I heard that familiar hymn, “I surrender all!” and began to realize that just as grace is an already accomplished fact, and I need to acknowledge it in my life as the truth (Philemon 1:6); likewise, **I do not need to surrender again**, what I surrendered **when I became born again**. When I keep asking God to do things He’s already done, I’m not acknowledging what He’s done. When I keep asking God to accept my surrendered heart again and again, I do not believe that God accepted it (permanently) or that I did it originally. In either case, I need to stand on the truth that when I gave my heart to the Lord at salvation, ***it is a done deal***.

When I became born again, I had to come just as I was and with all that I am. **God doesn’t accept less than our whole heart**. When we called upon the name of Jesus, we received because we called with all that we are.

Jer 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me, **when you search for Me with all your heart**.

I have prayed with some over the years who were not coming with their whole heart. The result was that they did not become born again. For those who have received salvation, and a relationship to the Lord, **it required that we surrendered all**. Once I have surrendered all, I belong to the Lord (I Cor. 6:20). God *doesn’t give me back* and wait for me to surrender all again and again; however, we have often felt like we needed to surrender all again and again.

Marriage Analogy

When I married my wife, it was a done deal. I don't ask to re-marry her again and again. At some point, I need to rest, stand, **and work from the position** that I have given my life in marriage. The sooner I do, the better my marriage will be.

When a married man fails to act married, usually a wife confronts that behavior. The wife doesn't ask for a new wedding and ceremony, but wants a different attitude or behavior. If the husband responds, repents, and changes, the marriage moves forward. If a husband doesn't respond, this is what causes the marriage to suffer and can lead to divorce. When we became born again, we were married to the Lord (Rom. 7:4). **When we act like we aren't married, we need to correct our wrong thinking and believing**—this doesn't mean we need to re-marry, as in give our heart again and again.

Just as it is unbelief to ask the Lord to do things He's already done, so it is unbelief to consider that what we did in accepting Christ, we need to do again. What did we do? **We surrendered all!**

Acting in faith towards the Lord means accepting what Jesus has done for us. **Acting in faith towards ourselves means accepting what we did, when we became born again. In truth, it is a matter of identifying ourselves correctly.** When I'm married, I need to identify myself as married—usually by wearing a wedding ring. More important is the heart decision I made; if I'm married, I shouldn't act like I'm not. If I'm married, I should have peace in my heart that I am. When we became born again, we were married to the Lord and it meant we are fully His (and fully

surrendered). When we don't act like it, we *need to repent from it* and realize that we are still fully His. When we don't act surrendered, we need to repent in our heart from it and realize that we are still surrendered. We need to stop acting in confusion and repent to become more in line with our born again spirit experience.

Confusion By Not Realizing The Truth

Confusion has kept us from seeing grace as done, and it has moved us into unbelief and powerlessness. Confusion about ourselves in what we did at being born again, is also keeping us from seeing His grace in us. There is great confusion about what it means to live a Christian life, and most, if not all of it, comes from founding what we believe *on our experiences*.

I have heard some say, "Well, we are living sacrifices that have often gotten down from the altar to live our own lives again." I have heard others explain it, "We all fall short and often fall back as in backsliding." Some go on to tell us that we must struggle and press on, seeking to become more like Jesus. Or it is said that no one is perfect and we must confess our sins to be cleansed again and again.

The result is that we come away trying to put new wine in old wine skins—*it's not working*. We are living our Christian life from an Old Testament perspective, and not fully embracing the New!

What has been the result of doing this? We think we need to surrender every day or come back to the Lord from backsliding, or we need to be saved from a wayward spirit. We pray that God

will revive us, renew us, re-charge us, and cleanse our hearts again. It is as if we see ourselves as the prodigal son, returning not from a long trip, but just an everyday excursion from God's grace. As a result of this thinking, many have taken solace in Psalms, consider this passage:

Psalm 51: 1 (To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.) Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your loving-kindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, **Blot out my transgressions.**

2 **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.**

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, **And my sin is always before me.**

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

7 **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

8 Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

9 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

11 **Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.**

12 Restore **to me the joy of Your salvation,** And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

I understand how this and other passages like it, can minister to us comfort, because it is expressing **our** heartfelt

thoughts and beliefs. We must understand that this was the case for all of us **under the Old Covenant**. David did not have the Spirit within him, as in being born again. His relationship to the Lord was governed by the law. David's cry to be made clean is the cry of all hearts bound in sin. David wanted God to create in him a clean heart. David wanted a steadfast spirit. David was afraid that God might cast him away, or that the Holy Spirit might be taken away because of his sin. David cried out for the Lord to restore the joy of salvation.

When we do this, we can argue that we are being biblical; however, **it is denying the finished work of the cross!**

We Need To Stop Denying Grace In Order To Find It!

It doesn't work well, or for very long. It is putting new wine (our born again spirit) in old wine skins (putting back under the law). Remember that King David lived a thousand years before Jesus and the atonement.

Wrong Believing It's Cutting Us Off From Grace

We might say, "I'm not living as godly life as I should, because I'm just not surrendered enough. I'm not living a victorious Christian life, because I sin too much. I'm not keeping filled with the Spirit, because I'm too worldly and flesh minded. I wish I could be like sister so and so, or brother "faithful giant," but I'm not. **I know Jesus is in me, because I'm born again, but I just can't surrender enough to be that spiritual.**" This is putting it all on us to perform, to be good enough or measure up. **These are conditions we were under when we were under the law!**

Under grace, we died to the law, why do we allow ourselves to live to it any longer? We died to the law, we now live to a new lover, a new life, and a new savior.

Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Our experiences are demanding our attention. Many of us have a progressive understanding of spiritual life. We have always had laid out before us ***that we need to decrease and He needs to increase***. The burden of results, of being more like Jesus, has somehow always been put on us. We see it as our fault. We have been taught to believe it is up to us to *let go and let God*. **I need to surrender more, but it just never happens.**

The truth is this: **we are still trying to achieve something God already did in us when we became born again!** If we need to progress, it is *in understanding* more of what was done in us when we became born again. We need to increase in our heart, our thinking, and our believing to be more spiritually minded. We need to be more aware of **what we have** in Jesus.

We Feel Not Fully Surrendered

We have our moments though, when a special word is preached, or when a special song is sung, or when we've been moved by a touch of God to meet our needs; then we are more inclined, more spiritually minded, and more surrendered, ***at least for those moments***. We say things like, "Wow, I've never felt so moved by the Spirit; it was awesome, I wish I could stay in it." Some go so far as to seek special services with special anointing, so that they can feel God's presence ***that they again feel surrendered***—at least for the that time.

There Is Something We Have Missed Again

We need to make some connections we've been missing. We don't always make sense to ourselves, and this carries over into to spiritual life and truth. When we think and believe, because of our experiences as a Christian, that we are not surrendered, **we are not in the truth and the truth does not set us free**. When we believe that we need to surrender more, and seek God more so that we can surrender more, **we are not in the truth and the truth does not set us free**.

What experiences are we living to that make us think we are not surrendered? We could name many because we all have lived to ourselves, our flesh, our unbelief, and our doubts **as if that were the real us**. We are *continuing to believe* that our natural man and our selfishness is the real us. I have heard many, including myself, talk about what a struggle it is to believe God. I have received emails entitled, "Why is it so hard to believe?" **When we struggle, we need to know that this isn't the real us, that is the old us!**

If We Died, Then We Are Surrendered!

If I have been crucified with Christ, I died; yet I live, but it is not me, but Christ living through me. This means the old self is to be considered dead (Gal. 2:19, 20). When I came to Christ in being born again, I died! The life I now live is to Jesus. The old is passed away, behold all things have become new (II Cor. 5:17). **The problem is that we have continued to experience the old in struggling to believe, struggling with fear, struggling with unforgiveness, judgments, and bitterness, and then interpreted**

it as our Christian walk attempting to overcome our sin nature.

We have called this our cross to bear. We have called this the life of denying self to live to Jesus, as *if it were not an accomplished fact*. We have been misinterpreting our experiences, and labeling them according to scriptures describing the life under the law.

Back Under The Law

Under the law, **we** have to deny ourselves. Under the law, **we** must believe. Under the law, **we** must forgive. Under the law, **we** must love God. Under the law, **we** must surrender all.

We couldn't do it, *so God did it for us* by sending His Son. Jesus came and took our place by taking the requirements of the law upon Himself (Col. 2:14). We couldn't keep the law before we were saved, and now that we are, we keep looking at our experiences through the eyes of the law—as if we haven't died. As crazy as this may sound, when we live selfish lives again after being born again, ***we are living to a lie. We are relating to the old marriage instead of the new.***

In short, we don't need to surrender what we've already surrendered. We don't need to deny what we've already denied in Christ. We don't need to forgive anymore, for by Christ, the Spirit in us forgives all. This is a faith fact! We need to live to the new life, and therefore, we will not continue to live to the old.

Ro 13:14 **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,** and make no provision for the flesh, ***to fulfill its lusts.***

Ga 5:16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit,** and ***you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.***

It Is What We Believe And How We See It!

To our flesh, what I'm saying doesn't make sense because we still feel we need to surrender, to deny ourselves, and to forgive (1 Cor. 2:14). We know we still feel anger, bitterness, and resentment towards others. We know we are not thinking the right thoughts, making the right decisions, and doing what pleases the Lord on a regular basis. We know that we are constantly judging others and our self. **Stand back for a moment, and realize that what I'm describing isn't the life of the Spirit, but the flesh!**

We are living our Christian lives struggling to be spiritual *through the flesh*, and it isn't working. It isn't working because we are *identifying our struggles of the flesh, as part of growing in Christ*. **We died to the world, and now have a new spirit within us that doesn't struggle with unbelief, doubt, fear, pain, or with surrendering at all.**

We have got to realize that our believing means we believe what the Word says about us now. We did surrender all to become *saved and born again*. We did deny ourselves to accept Jesus, who has made us *a new creation*. We do love God more than family, self, and worldly gain **because it was given to us in Christ who came to live in us**—God's love was poured out (Rom. 5:5). **We are just as He is!** We don't progress to become like Him; we were given life and **the gift of righteousness** in full.

John 1: 16 **And of His fullness we have all received**, and grace for grace.

Ro 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, **much more those who receive abundance of grace**

and of the **gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

It's Who We Identify With

We are struggling because we are living ***to the wrong man inside of us***. We believe the wrong stuff about ourselves. We are mixing our natural man with grace and **trying to dress it up as spiritual**.

We need to stop looking at the wrong man and interpreting the word *from our experiences*. **What we need to do is accept the spiritual facts of our redemption**.

We have been made righteous as a gift in Christ. In fact, **we no longer live, but Christ has become our life, and we became His**. God sees us as He sees Jesus. We have the same Spirit in us that raised Christ from the dead (Rom. 8:11). We have the same believer in us, **the believing one**. We have been born again with the same nature as Christ, which means ***we are believers, we are trusting, and we have surrendered all!***

Stop recriminating ourselves when we live to the wrong nature inside. Stop trying to make the old man live like the new one. Stop giving the old man authority. Stop believing the wrong things about ourselves. **Believe what God has done**. He has made us like Jesus and it isn't based upon our experiences. It isn't based upon our feelings. **It is based upon what God has done when we became born again!**

What We Are...Not What We Are Becoming!

We have become sons, we are not becoming sons. We have become righteous in every way that Jesus is, we are not struggling to become righteous. We are believers who trust the Word of God completely, we are not learning to believe, or learning to trust in Jesus. We have authority given to us completely to use as Jesus would, we are not learning or earning authority as we act righteous. **We have been given these things in our new nature—believe it!**

We don't do this work; **we work the works of God's grace** in us **by believing the right things**. We speak what we believe; and we can change our hearts to believe what we speak! Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). We are surrendered once and for all time when we become born again.

This means that we are not getting up and off the altar and leaving our place of surrendered life, to be flesh driven again—it just looks like it. We are always upon the altar in our spirit, in our Christ redeemed position. When we see something other than the Spirit in our life, **it is the old man**. We don't need to surrender again, we need to put aside the old man, stop giving him power, stop yielding authority to the old condition, and accept with thanksgiving what the Spirit has done.

This manifests in our life as truth and freedom. The Spirit brings to life what God has done, as we acknowledge it. As we give it authority, it reveals itself through us. This is why we can be sinning in one moment (living to the flesh), then praising God and seeing miracles in the next! It is because we are living to the new created spirit within us. We are making a decision to live by what God's word says, not what we may be experiencing at the

moment. We simply can change channels in our heart to which man, the spirit or the old nature, we are going to live to now. As we look to Jesus, what we are in Him becomes manifest in our heart.

II Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

The Work And The Miracle Is Done

This transformation is happening in our heart from the spirit man within us. God is, by the Spirit, taking what we say and believe that is true about us according to His grace, and making it happen in this realm. Jesus said the truth shall set us free! It is the word of God that works in us to do the miracle and bring about the freedom. He is taking what He's done in us and manifesting it in our life.

Rom. 6: 22 **But now having been set free from sin**, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

We are to declare our freedom and live to the truth, not what we are experiencing in this world through the old man. By faith means that we accept the kingdom of God into our being as sons, and live to it. We deny the old man, the old ways, **and claim our freedom** in the gift of righteousness. We declare it in the face of opposition, even within our own heart. We declare it in the face of sinful behavior on our own part. We declare it so not by

feelings, or what we see, **but by what we know the Word of God has done in us.**

Eph 2:10 For **we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

We Walk By Faith; What That Means

This means we stop letting the old emotions and feeling dominate us. We stop letting our failed experience dictate to us that we are not surrendered. We stop letting our old addictions and habits rule us, ***making us believe that we haven't been changed.*** We stop letting our sin tell us that our hearts are unclean. **We stop letting what we see or hear, determine what we believe.**

What we do is make a decision that we are born again and made free. What we do is decide that we have been made righteous; that sin and the law have no more dominion over us. What we do **is identify with who Christ is** in us, and by His Spirit this dominates our being.

We believe we have been forgiven and forgive by the Spirit in us. We are new creations; therefore, we are believers who believe in the believing one! We do not fear, we have *complete trust in the Lord*, and we remain steadfast in God. We stop judging and being judged by others or self, and judge according to *His righteousness in us*. This is what we let go and live to, God's love within us. **His love healed us through and through because of what He did in the cross.**

Conclusion

We are cleansed from sin (Heb. 10:14). We are filled with God. We are One in the Lord (I Cor. 6:17). We are righteous in all ways as Jesus is! What God has done in us is the greater truth, not what we have experienced in the old nature! We have a clean heart by the washing of the water from the Word that was born into our lives. **This is all true because we surrendered all!**

I John 4: 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; **because as He is, so are we in this world.**

When we declare and sense God's joy, love, and peace, **the miracle of transformation has taken place! It's not about us; it's about Him in us.** When we identify with Him, even though we might be in the wrong place, we win. God's victory is ours already and it happens as we agree with Him. **God's power is released into our life and heart when we agree with Him! Power is released in peace when we agree with Him! The old man doesn't agree and can't understand the things of the Spirit; but our new created spirit is in full agreement and has new life ready for our use. Amen.**