

# Surrender







Surrender:

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<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.



<sup>12</sup> There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death.

<sup>13</sup> Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.



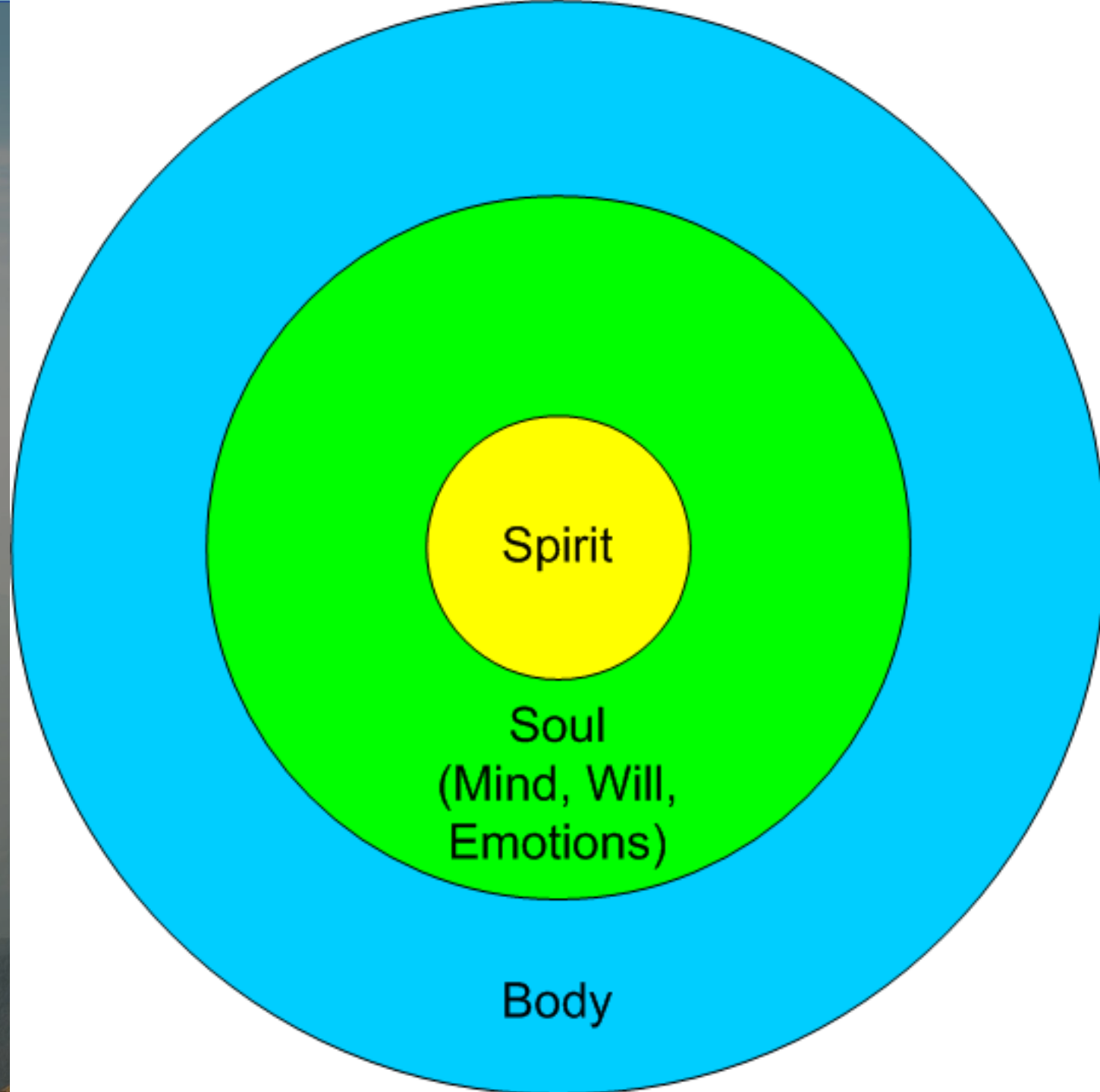
<sup>34</sup> When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Surrendering is a process like  
sanctification is a process.



<sup>23</sup> And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (AMPC)





<sup>60</sup> Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” <sup>61</sup> When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you?”

<sup>66</sup> From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. <sup>67</sup> Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”  
<sup>68</sup> But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

John 6: 66-68 (NKJV)



After the doors seemed to close on a once promising soccer career, I am currently working as a boarder master at a local primary school and studying a bachelor of theology through correspondence college. My girlfriend and I both have a burning passion for our Lord Jesus Christ, and seem to be growing increasingly frustrated the more we hold off in serving Him in the ways your churches seem to do.

As we strive towards marriage, as well as my heartfelt calling of missions and evangelism, we so desire to be among a body of believers with the same vision. With many doors seeming to have closed in our lives, we continue to trust that the Lord has a plan for us as we certainly don't want to be forcing open doors that our Lord is closing.



I believe He is closing them as He has a calling for us, and so realise patience with His plan is key. With that in mind, we don't have a concrete plan, but rather ideas that we are waiting on... trusting the Lord will open or close the doors.

The first idea, as my girlfriend has a passion for art, is to be plugged into a local church where she could study fine arts.

I could then continue my studies through correspondence whilst hopefully getting involved in some form of ministry. The second idea is for us to try and make connections overseas where we could both start serving in the field our hearts are being pulled in. Any ideas and connections regarding that thought process would be much appreciated too.



Awesome to hear your heart for spreading the Gospel.

I am hearing you are talking about possible ideas but what is God saying to you when you ask Him?

Maybe a direct question but God will guide you when you ask Him.

Out of personal experience I could hear Him only on a later stage in my life when I became quiet and started listening to Him instead of telling Him or coming to Him with my shopping list to Him. Plan a day, take your bible, note book and pen and get a quiet place on your own. Make an appointment with Him beforehand and wait for Him to reveal His plans for you.



Warning: you will not get a 3 or 5 year plan. It all goes in steps, steps of obedience. And if God spoke to you in the past but you were not obedient first repent and ask God again for His guidance.

Sorry that I am writing this straight message but I feel the Holy Spirit is telling me to share it with you.

I am going to spend a day with the Lord early next week. I appreciated you sharing how you heard the Lord later on in life when you listened. For quite a few years now I think I have brushed over what He's been telling me.



<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment.

<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22: 37-40 (NKJV)

I have certainly felt our Lord Jesus directing me since your email last week, as I have spent time with Him on a few occasions asking Him what He wants me to do.

Yesterday I felt Him say "Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God." I am seeking things first at the moment (degree etc) thinking that when I have these things, I'll go after the Kingdom things.



I feel the Lord saying to me that if you go after things first, you'll spend a lifetime chasing them and never get them because there'll always be something more.

However if I go after the kingdom things first, these things shall indeed be added unto me by His grace. HIS finished work. It was placed on my heart that my Theology degree is to be an aid to my ministry, it isn't a qualification in order to be able to spread the gospel.

I need to stop thinking I can qualify myself for ministry through a degree. If Jesus calls me, He qualifies me. I am to be obedient to that call now, and continue my online studies but with a different mind-set. I was led to Isaiah 40:28: "His understanding is unsearchable". That spoke to me because I realised that studying the word of God is a lifelong thing... It's not something that stops after a degree.



You were so right in saying don't expect a 3 year plan. I have been trying to put God in a box over the last while, thinking I'll be obedient to him after certain boxes are checked. I'm being reminded that He is Lord, and He doesn't work in the time frames the world uses.

I am going to continue asking for His guidance.

It does seem crazy for me, but I know I need to keep working on not making decisions based on my carnal mind.

I will continue to ask Jesus over the next week to direct my steps.



What did you surrender in 2019?

What are you going to surrender in 2020?



# MINISTRY



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