

# MT. SPOKANE CHURCH

A HEART LIKE MINE

*Discovering God's Will for Your Life*

**'Surrender Is Out of Control'**

**Message 4 of 8**

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☞ Webster's Dictionary defines surrender as yielding to the power, control, or possession of another upon compulsion or demand.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to James 1:2-4.

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."* James 1:2-3 (NIV)

➤ The Greek word for consider is "*hegeomai*" (ἡγεομαι). It means to lead the way, go before, rule, command, to have authority over, to be in control. Metaphorically it is used in the New Testament with the meaning of to view, regard, esteem, count, reckon, or surrender to an idea about something as a first step of thinking.

- Self-pity is a tool of the devil; it is a self-indulgent **DWELLING** on one's own sorrows or misfortunes. Self pity creates a "poor me/why me - world within the world" to hide in.
- Self-centered, self-pitying **QUESTIONS** reveal a lack of being surrendered to God and His control of our lives.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Ecclesiastes 7:10.

*"Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions."* Ecclesiastes 7:10 (NIV)

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Exodus 14:10-14.

*"They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die?"*" Exodus 14:10-11 (NIV)

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 17:18-20.

*"Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so little faith."*

Matthew 17:19-20 (NIV)

## **3 Biblical Truths About Surrendering to God**

**BIBLICAL TRUTH #1: An un-surrendered heart asks the WRONG questions during trials.**

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to James 1:2-3.

*“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.” James 1:2-3 (NIV)*

➤ The Greek word for trials is “*peirasmosi*” (πειρασμός). It means an experiment, attempt, trial, or proving. It is the testing of a person’s loyalty, integrity, virtue, or faithfulness. It allows for temptation to sin arising from desires within or without.

- God does not tempt people to sin. But He does **ALLOW** our love and faith in Him to be tested.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to James 1:12-13.

*“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.” James 1:13 (NIV)*

*“My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man’s whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.” Proverbs 4:20-24 (NIV)*

- Trials are Satan’s opening to tempt us to **DENY** God’s Word. We can begin questioning God’s love for us. We can believe Satan’s lies, sin, and blame God because of what He allows.

*“But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean.’ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.” Matthew 15:18-19 (NIV)*

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Ecclesiastes 7:10.

*“Do not say, “Why were the old days better than these?” For it is not wise to ask such questions.” Ecclesiastes 7:10 (NIV)*

- Be **CAREFUL** of “Why” questions directed to God. It is unwise to ask such questions when we are going through times of trial and change.
- Our dreams of success may not be God’s will for us. We want health, wealth, power, pleasure, or prestige; but in fact, God’s purposes may be served **BEST** by exactly the opposite.
- Man’s way is to measure our steps along the way to a **FUTURE** goal we believe is God’s will. But God sees each step, each moment of every trial in life as the goal itself – doing His will.

*“A man’s steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand his own way?” Proverbs 20:24 (NIV)*

*“I know, O Lord, that a man’s life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps.” Jeremiah 10:23 (NIV)*

**BIBLICAL TRUTH #2: An un-surrendered heart MISSES opportunities provided by trials.**

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Ephesians 5:15-20.

*“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.”*  
Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV)

- God wants us to depend on Him and the controlling **POWER** of His Holy Spirit now – today, each moment, and in every opportunity we face in life – always giving thanks for every It is the steps along the way, not just reaching the goal that is glorifying to God. Every moment is an opportunity to **EXALT** God through surrender and obedience to Him.

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

### **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE #3: An un-surrendered heart resists HOLINESS revealed by trials.**

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Hebrews 12:7-8.

*“Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.”* Hebrews 12:7-8 (NIV)

➤ The Greek word for discipline is “*paideia*” (παιδεία). It means training, education, and instruction of children relating to the cultivation of mind, morals, and the soul by correcting mistakes and curbing passions. It is aimed at increasing virtue.

- God’s purpose is to enable people to **EXPERIENCE** His control of their life and present circumstances. His goal is for us to live life surrendered to His controlling Holy Spirit.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to 1 Peter 1:14-16.

*“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”*  
1 Peter 1:14-16 (NIV)

➤ The Greek word for in all you do is “*anastrophe*” (ἀναστροφή). It means manner of life, conduct, behavior, the spending of one’s life.

- God’s will is for us to be **HOLY** always. We are not destined to happiness, nor to health, but to holiness. Holiness is only found in surrendering control of our lives to God.
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