



Part 4: Surrender Is Not Losing

August 23, 2026



CONVERSATION GUIDE



SMALL GROUPS

Throughout our ***"Because You Prayed"*** series, we have discovered that prayer draws us closer to the Father with confidence, encourages us to ask in faith, and sustains us when life hurts. This week, we move into a dimension that can be more difficult: surrendering our will. Prayer is not only about bringing our desires before God, but also about entrusting what we want to Him when His way does not align with ours.

In **Luke 22:41-44**, Jesus honestly expresses what He desires while willingly submitting to the Father's will. His prayer does not deny His anguish or turn surrender into indifference; it demonstrates trust and obedience in the midst of suffering. Jesus teaches us that we can bring our desires to God without demanding that He fulfill them. Prayer also transforms our hearts so that we can trust that God's will is better than our own understanding.

He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Luke 22:41-44 (NIV)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. As we look at Jesus' prayer, what do we learn from the way He expresses His desire to the Father while also surrendering His will?

2. In **Matthew 6:26**, Jesus directs our attention to the birds and the care they receive from our heavenly Father. What does this picture reveal about God's character? How can it shape the way we face the things we cannot control?
3. How can we honestly bring our desires before God without holding on to the expectation that things must happen exactly the way we want them to?

Prayer doesn't change God to make Him do my will; it changes me to desire His.

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

This week, learn to let go of:

1. **What you think you deserve — Gratitude.** At the end of each day, write down three specific things you can be thankful for, even if something did not go the way you hoped. Practice recognizing what you have received before focusing on what you lack.
2. **Control of the outcome — Faithfulness.** Identify a situation where you are trying to control the outcome and determine what part is actually yours to do. Fulfill that responsibility this week and trust God with the outcome.
3. **The "I'll be happy when..." — Contentment.** What is one thing you are waiting to change? Surrender it to God in prayer. This week, pray sincerely: "Lord, even if nothing changes, You are enough."

PRAYER

"Father, thank You that we can come to You with our desires, questions, and concerns. Jesus shows us that surrendering our will does not mean giving up our desires, but fully trusting You. Help us let go of what we are trying to control and walk in gratitude, faithfulness, and contentment. This week, teach us to obey You and trust You even when we cannot control the outcome. Amen."

TIPS

- A person who surrenders their will to God does not become passive: they make responsible decisions and remain willing to adjust their plans when they recognize the need to do so.
- If you struggle to let go of something this week, keep bringing it honestly before God. Surrender can also be a process in which we learn to trust as we continue to pray.
- Surrender is learned over time, through decisions both big and small. It is not about giving up our desires; it is about trusting God more than our desires.



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