NEW DELIVERANCE CHURCH
11200 SOUTH STATE STREET - CHICAGO, IL 60628
TELEPHONE: 773-785-7476
REVEREND MARTY C. GOOL, PASTOR
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Pastor's Corner

Trust and Dependence is Always a Part of Surrender

Genesis 32:24-28 and Galatians 2:20

For a while I have been studying the concept of surrender and trust. I understand surrender is a battle term. It means giving up all rights to the conqueror. When an opposing army surrenders, they lay down their arms and the victor takes control. Surrendering to God means the very same thing. Surrender means we are surrendering to the plan God has for our lives and not the plan *we* have for our lives.

However, there is no surrender without trust. There is no real victory without surrender. It is in our surrender, the giving up of our self-interest in the situation at hand that allows the hand of God to move on our behalf. By interest I mean, the way we want a thing to happen. The way we want a situation and circumstance to turn out. When we read the story of Jacob wrestling with the angel of God, we read the story as Jacob holding the angel of God hostage. But in reality, Jacob is clinging for his life with everything he has. The angel of God dislocates Jacobs' hip, and the pain is so excruciating the Jacob must cling to the angel of God. Jacob is no longer able to wrestle, Jacob is just holding on. Jacob has wrapped his arms around the angel of God in total and complete dependence. So often we have understood this scripture and viewed it from the perspective of power and control on the part of Jacob. When in fact, it is the complete dependence of Jacob upon the Angel of God that made the angel yield. It was not the strength of Jacob that brought the blessing. It was the dependence and weakness and pain on Jacob that made Jacob dependent that brought the blessing.

How often have we engaged in prayer wanting it our way? How often have we, on bended knee, given the impression that we have surrendered when in fact we still want things our way? Prayer's power is not found in

our struggle. Prayer's power is not found in our resistance. It is found in our ability to surrender. It is found in our ability to let go. It is found in our ability to say yes to the reality that is in front of us. Prayer's power is found in our ability, our willingness to cling to God in complete total dependence.

Trusting in the actions and movement of God is in our best interest. It is in surrender that the Spirit of God works best in the lives of the faithful. The relationship between surrender and trust is profound. It is a relationship that is discovered in the deep spaces of pain and suffering. Giving up control is difficult. God wants us to rely totally and complete on Him. God is our provider - that is what we say. How much do we believe it when we struggle against His will? God is our friend - how much do we believe this when we struggle with His counsel? God is our strong tower and present help in times of trouble. How much do we believe it when we fail to give ourselves up unto His care?

The text **Galatians 2:20:**

> **"I have been *crucified with Christ.* It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" -**

is saying that the life that now lives in my person is no longer mine. It belongs to God because by faith I have been crucified and have given my life to God in His service. So, His will is my will. His desire is my desire. This is total and complete surrender and trust.

I realize we have a long way to go. However, knowing there is a journey is part of the battle and informs us regarding the tools needed to gain the victory. The tools are confession and acknowledging we need the power of God in our lives to make the transition.

God Bless and remain safe,

Pastor Gool