

SURRENDERING TO GOD – PART 3

SURRENDERING YOUR FUTURE



In the midst of navigating your current life, you develop thoughts, dreams, and hopes regarding your future. It's good to think about your future, and it's important that you have hope where your future is concerned. It's terrible to be hopeless.

Hope is future-oriented, it's wanting and believing in something you don't have. In between the present and the future is a *wait*. While you're waiting, you have choices about your attitude.

One option is to wait with an attitude of *despair*. Either the pain from the past or troubled feelings of the present causes despair. The problem with despair is that it kills hope. Despair is one option, but not a great one.

Fear is another attitude that looms between the present and the future. A lot of people are consumed with fear because they can't control, anticipate, or predict their future. It's a popular choice. When you investigate fear, you'll usually find it's fuelled by a lack of confidence in God's plan and faithfulness.

Another attitude – far superior to despair and fear – is *faith*. Faith keeps you focused on God's trustworthiness. Faith doesn't run away when you feel bad or when you don't get what you want.

1. Describe what you hope your life will be like when you're 35 years old? _____

2. How might your relationship with God be impacted if your life doesn't end up like you hope it will? _____

Surrendering your future requires you to trust in God's character and his promises even when you don't know the outcome of your life. You're saying, "God, I don't know my future, but I don't want to take my focus off you to worry about it. I want to worship you. I place my faith in your character, and I will trust the promises from your Word. I surrender to your goodness."

As you read this passage from Hebrews, take notice that these heroes of faith responded to God's promises. They surrendered their futures to God and now they have the title *people of faith*.

Read Hebrews 11:1-3, 6-16

3. Look back at verses 1 and 6. What are the core components of faith as described in these verses? _____

4. Can you be fully surrendered to God's will and still express desires about what you do and don't want? _____

5. What are the things you hope for as a Christian and do not yet see? _____

6. Why do you think it's impossible to please God without faith? _____

a. Does this statement seem harsh or unfair? _____

b. How would you explain this truth to an unbeliever? _____

7. Why is believing that God rewards thus who seek him an important part of faith? _____

8. What similarities do you see between the faiths of Noah and Abraham? _____

9. Read verse 3 and respond to the following statement:
Since we believe God created the universe, we have no reason to study evolution.
What do you like about this statement? _____
What don't you like? _____
10. Reread verses 13-16. How can the promise of a better country, a heavenly one impact the way you live today? _____

11. Describe the last time you didn't get something you hoped for. How did you feel? Did God let you down? Were you hoping for the wrong thing? _____

12. Can you be fully surrendered to God's will and still express desires about what you do and don't want? _____

13. Does God think about your desires and feelings? _____

14. Discuss how your thoughts about your future and the act of surrendering to God might collide? _____

Below are some areas of your future to surrender to God. Check the ones that you have the most difficulty giving over to God at this point in your life.

- My purity
- My friendships
- My job
- My sports
- My time
- My girlfriend
- My boyfriend
- My family
- My ministry
- My dreams
- My addictions
- My popularity
- My goals
- My _____
- My _____
- My _____
- My _____
- My _____
- My _____