

Surrendered

INTRO: FIL, Afib "the most common type of irregular heartbeat, where the upper chambers of the heart (atria) beat out of sync with the lower chambers (ventricles)", ablation "procedure to destroy heart cells, specifically those cells responsible for causing atrial fibrillation", Requires a skilled physician and unique equipment designed to kill cells in the heart that cause misfirings to reset the heartbeat. It literally puts to death something in the heart to spark life. Successful, he is doing great.

How would I want to encourage you? Something the Lord has been deeply impacting e over the past few months.

“For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

(Philippians 3:3-11 ESV)

POINTS: What is surrender // Why is it hard // How do you do it // What happens when you do it

WHAT IS SURRENDER?

- I broke my leg dancing to Gangnam Style 13 yrs ago. Surgery, metal plate, totally fine. Hopping on one foot w/ my daughter, felt strange. Stopped workout for a few days, Dr., X-Ray, he walk in and explains it
 - I trusted the doctor. Not blind faith, but informed faith (Rachel's recommendation, we looked at it together, I asked questions)
 - Everything was fine, irritation, swelling, but no damage to the hardware, but I was concerned about something jutting out from my foot!
 - Concern was alleviated when I trusted the doctor, surrendered to his assessment, trusting him, act of the will to trust him
- A key element of following Jesus is surrender. Something that I have been deeply learning and I want to share.
- **DEFINED: Surrender is a voluntary act of the will to submit every part of our life to God, trusting Him as Father, Savior, Comforter, and King.**
 - Surrender is not YOU-CENTRIC, it is GOD-CENTRIC
 - It's about God and who He is FIRST, then it is recognizing who you are in contrast to God
 - And then it requires a voluntary act of the will to submit to God for WHO HE IS, which always involves a death
 - When you die to yourself, Understanding who GOD IS and who WE ARE, and voluntarily submit to Him... we GAIN CHRIST. This is following Jesus.

WHY IS SURRENDER HARD?

“For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no **confidence** in the flesh”

(Philippians 3:3 ESV)

- The goal of the Christian is to worship and glory in Jesus (placing ultimate worth, value, significance) in Christ
- The opposite is to put confidence in the flesh.
- What is confidence in the flesh?
 - πείθω peíthō (pie-tho)- "To persuade another to receive a belief, meaning to convince" - WSNTDICT

- The persuasion of my life, the convincing of my life, righteousness of my lifein myself

“though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.” (Philippians 3:4–6 ESV)

- Virtue signaling /checklist
 - **I was born into it** (not adopted in, but born a Israelite and circumcised on the RIGHT day, RIGHT custom)
 - **I was born into a faithful tribe** (of all the sons of Jacob, only Benjamin was born in the Promised Land, a tribe "loved by Yahweh" - Deut 33:12, produced first King, place of honor among the military leaders, Jerusalem was in Benjamin's borders, Mordecai was a Benjamite, spiritually pure when the other tribes were falling away, represented strength and courage, He was the ultimate Benjamite!)
 - **Genealogically pure:** Hebrew of Hebrews (both my parents and all four of my grandparents were Jews)
 - **Linguistically pure:** I speak Hebrew as my native tongue
 - **Religiously pure:** I followed all of the rules
 - **Chief Leading Activist:** I led a movement to persecute the enemies of Judaism
 - **Blameless:** I was the best of the best
 - Elite special forces, Seal Team Six
- This is Paul's checklist. His persuasion of his life, convincing others he is good enough. This is opposed to glorying in God, opposite of celebrating God as the supreme good. He is saying I have every right to celebrate MYSELF as the supreme good.

Like, Paul, we all have a checklist we produce about ourselves, because we all have a desire to persuade others, to convince others about our life. (opposite of submission to God)

- "It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul."
- Invictus by **William Earnest Henley**
 - We celebrate the one who forges ahead, overcomes all obstacles by sheer force of will, and who is victorious in the end
 - We mourn the one who are irrelevant, subservient, weak, and who needs others
 - This is how the world works, this is how the human heart is designed to operate.
- We write a checklist as Overcomers or Failures. (celebrating my wins, grieving my losses)

The checklist typically takes us to one of three places:

- **IN the courtroom** (defending yourself / accusing others) - vs. KING
 - **Judge/Jury:** You are the judge when your accusing others, other people are the judge when your seeking to defend yourself
 - Bring your checklist: look at all of my qualifications. Persuade others of your innocence or of another's guilt
- **ON the chopping block** (self-focused and self-condemning) - vs. SAVIOR / COMFORTER
 - **Executioner:** Look at how bad I am, I deserve all of the bad things that happen to me. Victim
 - Being your checklist: this is why I deserve to be executed
- **UNDER the weight** (performance) - vs. FATHER
 - **Boulder:** I'm trying so hard to be good, look good, act good. Stressed, weighed down. Imposter syndrome.
 - Bring your checklist: I need to live up to what is on paper
- When do you care about a checklist? When you have to do the work.

- HOW DOES A CHECKLIST CONNECT WITH SURRENDER?

- The moral checklist and the places we take it are all centered on OWNING our life, trying to be the solution to our problems. Convincing others, persuading others we are OK...This is the opposite of surrender...instead of glorying in Jesus, ascribing to Him ultimate worth and value, surrendering our

right-ness to Him, we persuade others of our right-ness, seek to justify ourselves, and glory in OUR OWN CHECKLIST. We say: I am the supreme good, I am the center of my life.

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as **loss** for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count **everything as loss** because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have **suffered the loss of all things** and **count them as rubbish**, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith” (**Philippians 3:7-9 ESV**)

Reject the checklist..

See God and yourself.

Submit to the truth.

- Reject the checklist: "Suffered the loss of all things"
 - πείθω peíthō (pie-tho) - "To persuade another to receive a belief, to convince" - WSNTDICT
 - ZERO convincing, no confidence in himself
 - This feels like death:
 - Loss, everything as loss, suffered the loss of all things, count them as rubbish
 - When you don't feel defended, don't feel heard, you feel condemned, you feel stressed and weighed down. you're in the middle of a test of surrender.
 - Will you surrender your checklist or keep fighting?
 - Dying to yourself, losing yourself. It is going to hurt. Death is never comfortable.
 - Paul is saying I had a righteousness under the law, blameless, my checklist is perfect
 - But I have found no need for the checklist in rejoicing, and supremely valuing and glorying and worshiping Christ. But it requires a death. Your flesh, your convincing, your persuasion, is being stripped away.
- See God clearly: "because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord"
 - Surrender ONLY makes sense if we truly know and believe who God is
 - King (meets us in the courtroom)
 - “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (**Philippians 2:9-11 ESV**)
 - Savior and Comforter (meets us at the chopping block)
 - “he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,” (**Titus 3:5 ESV**)
 - Father (meets us under the weight)
 - “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (**Luke 12:32 ESV**)
 - He will never forsake you. Really, there was only one time in human history where surrendering to God resulted in abandonment.
- See yourself accurately: "not having a righteousness of my own"
 - We have nothing. No control. No rightness. No right to convince. No goodness inherent in us to earn for us justice in the courtroom, salvation from the executioners, or strength to carry the weight of our identity.
 - Defending myself: don't even know how bad I am.
 - Accusing others: I have no right to judge others
 - Self-condemning: I can't sacrifice myself or beat myself up enough to cover over my sins
 - Performance: It's impossible to live up to my perceived checklist, much less what is necessary to be justified in the eyes of God (can't meet my own standards)

- I have a deep need for Christ. Every day I wake up in need: Get out of bed, pray “I need you today Jesus”
- Submit to His truth: "through faith in Christ"
 - HBO, voluntary and conscious decision of the will, motivated and spurred on by the power of God, to submit to God. **Powerful statement: "I decide to let this truth change me and my actions."**

Reject the checklist.

See God clearly as Father, Savior, Comforter, and King.

See yourself accurately as having no control, and no right to convince anyone of anything.

Submit to His truth in faith. I am going to let this truth change me.

Every day I wake up underneath the delight of a Father who loves me and gives me good things and is in control of the universe. Everything bad and difficult in my life will be redeemed and used to draw me closer to Him as I surrender my life to Him. I have nothing to fear.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DO IT?

- Jesus becomes supremely valuable and worthwhile to you
 - Jesus becomes so much sweeter to us when we see all of how He is uniquely meeting us in our needs. He is all we have, we have nothing else to save us.
 - He incarnated to save us, He has hand-crafted a salvation unique to our confidence in the flesh, our desire to convince ourselves, and uniquely saves us from all of the places that persuading -self-righteousness takes us.
- The convincing of your life is DONE. You are at peace.
 - **The metric of surrender is peace:**
 - "Am I submitted to God right now?" / "Am I completely at peace?"
 - I am out of the courtroom
 - I am off of the chopping block
 - I am above the weight
 - THE TRUE SOURCE OF PEACE IS IN THE SURRENDER OF THE WILL
 - "Live in continued peace. But understand that peace does not depend upon the fervor of your devotion. The only thing you need to be concerned about is the direction of your will. Give that up to God without reservation. The important question is not how religious you are, or how devoted, but rather, is your will in harmony with God's? Humbly confess your faults. Learn to be detached from the world and completely abandoned to God. Love Him more than yourself and His glory more than your life. The least you can do is to desire and ask for such a love. God will then pour out upon you that special love which only His children know, and He will give you His peace." - Fenelon, (Let Go, Letter 6)
 - The checklist is filed away because you already have what you need. You are at peace.
- You have ultimate freedom in following Jesus
 - “And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?” **(Mark 8:34–36 ESV)**
 - Losing yourself. You don't just give up your rights, your will, but you FIND YOURSELF
- “that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” **(Philippians 3:10–11 ESV)**
 - You know Him in a deep and special way. You follow Him into death AND resurrection. You reenact, you join with Him in His death when you die to your right to defend, accuse, be punished, or perform to justify yourself. It's a holy ablation. It's a small death of yourself to spark life, to align your heart with the heartbeat of God's heart.
 - You can walk into a room and say: I need nothing from anyone, I have everything I need. My checklist is filed away. No convincing or persuasion needed. How can I serve?

- “We see our trials rolling in toward us like great, overpowering ocean waves. Our hearts ail us with fear at the prospect of drowning. We do not see that we stand within the point at which God, with a steady finger, has drawn the boundary line. Beyond that line the waves cannot pass.” - Fenelon, let go. Letter 37
- Dead men don't feel anything
- When your flesh is dead, when you crucify your flesh (picking up your cross, becoming like Him in His death), you don't feel anything but peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

APPLICATION

Discern the checklist and reject it

- Reject the checklist. (see when you're fighting, pray: "I am not surrendered right now")

Discern why you're writing the checklist

- See God clearly as Father, Savior, Comforter, and King.
- See yourself accurately as having no control, and no right to convince anyone of anything.

Submit to His truth in faith

- I am going to let this truth change me and my actions.

ADORATION

Ablations require a death, to spark life.

We needed a holy ablation. We needed a death. And we needed someone to surrender for us because naturally our hearts won't do it.

On the cross, Jesus was surrendered. And He is the only person in human history who was abandoned by God:

- Jesus was in the courtroom. He was the only one who deserved justification by works, and He was judged unrighteous as our substitute. He wasn't justified by His perfect deeds. He died, and now sits as the King of the Courtroom. He presents His checklist.
- Jesus was on the chopping block. He is the author of life, but laid His body down to be condemned for our bad deeds. He holds the keys of life and death. He has chosen LIFE for you. He stays the executioner's hand, and lifts us up as our Savior and Comforter and friend.
- Jesus was underneath the weight of performance. He bore the sins of all mankind and was crushed under the weight, so we could live free. He bore our sins in His body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. And He brings us to the Father who gives us good things, who says: my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

It's finished. It's done. Your checklist is no longer needed. In surrender is truly how you follow Jesus, find life, and live in freedom. How you live out a faith that is truly life-transforming.

When He, from His lofty throne,
 Stooped to do and die,
 Everything was fully done;
 Harken to His cry:

Weary, working, burdened one,
 Wherefore toil you so?
 Cease your doing; all was done
 Long, long ago.

Cast your deadly “doing” down—

Down at Jesus' feet;
Stand in Him, in Him alone,
Gloriously complete.

- James Proctor, It Is Finished