



Prayers of Surrender (EPHESIANS 3:14-21)

Talk To Me sermon series

By Pastor David Hillis, 11.24.19

BIG IDEA: Surrendering to God is a prayerful process of releasing to God and thanking God for doing what we can't do ourselves, and we can only get there from a place of complete trust and love.

How do we surrender to God?

1. Accept before God that this is bigger than you, and talk to Him about it. [EPH 3:14-15]
 - a. To acknowledge is to put yourself in a *posture* of surrender.
 - b. Some of us can spend our *lives* in a tug of war with God, fighting Him for what *we think is best* in our thoughts, our prayers, our actions when we know it isn't God's best.
2. Ask God for inner strength so you can really trust Him, regardless of the outcome. [EPH 3:16-17]
 - a. He says pray instead that God will *empower you* with inner strength.
3. Ask God to help you understand and experience His love for you. [EPH 3:18-19]
 - a. You will not just intellectually know God loves you, but that you will *know it*, deep down in your heart.
 - b. So surrender comes from a place of total trust, and a place of total love.
4. The fruit of surrender is experiencing thankfulness & the other fruit of the Spirit in the situation. [EPH 3:20-21]
 - a. Paul's thanking God, giving glory to God even before the answer comes, because he has such love and trust in God that He knows whatever happens, God will do infinitely more than he could ask or think.
 - b. This is knowing *so deep down* that God's got it that your emotions follow. That you see the fruit of the spirit in your life.

NEXT STEP: What do you need to surrender to God in your life right now? Can you be thankful to God this Thanksgiving in the middle of any circumstances that are unanswered (if so, how)?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. This week in the conclusion of *Talk to Me*, we talked about how to surrender the most important things of your life to God that you can't fully control. Spend some time re-reading and meditating on [Ephesians 3:14-21](#) this week, perhaps in other versions of the Bible like [The Message](#) or [God's Word Translation](#). Consider the different things in your life God is asking you to surrender or relinquish some control over in your life.
2. Spend some time with the 4 main points of this message, based on the passage. In your own words, think about and perhaps write out for yourself what practicing each of these 4 points looks like in your situation(s).
3. In the Bible, we see that kneeling is a posture of surrender. Read these verses, imagining the circumstances surrounding each one of their moments of surrender: Stephen ([Acts 7](#), esp. [v60](#)), Peter with Tabitha ([Acts 9:32-43](#), esp. [v40](#)), Paul with the Ephesian leaders ([Acts 20:13-38](#), esp. [v36-38](#)), and Jesus ([Luke 22:39-46](#), esp. [v41](#)). If you want to dig deeper, notice how kneeling was a posture of someone begging for a favor from a powerful person in those days, where deep emotions were involved ([Mark 1:40, 10:17; Matthew 17:14-15](#)).
4. Pastor Chuck Swindoll once said, *"When I was younger I often said I wanted His plan to run its course, but I resisted it more often than I care to remember, especially when it included unexpected detours and disappointments. It took a number of years to realize that His way actually is better than mine, and that He didn't need my help. I'm finally learning that His sovereign plan is the best plan. That whatever I entrust to Him, He can take care of better than I. That nothing under His control can ever be out of control. That everything I need, He knows about in every detail. That He is able to supply, to guide, to start, to stop, to sustain, to change, and to correct in His time, and for His purposes. When I keep my hands out of things, His will is accomplished, His Name is exalted, and His glory is magnified."* Would you agree with him? In your life struggles, which parts of what he said do you not struggle with anymore? Which parts do you still struggle with, and why?
5. Next week we will begin a new series called "Light of the World," as we explore how Christ's light pierces the darkness of our world and how He has entrusted us to be His lights, reflecting the light of our Heavenly Father. To prepare for that message, read [John 1](#). Look for where light is mentioned, and what its significance is.