

## **CHANGED #2 – “SURRENDER/SEEING/SURRENDER”**

**Review** (Overall series theme: “Loved, changed and sent by God.”)

- Do you want to be conformed to the image of Jesus? Motivations: Because it’s the natural result of being in a love-relationship with God – and it’s what I’ve been created for in the first place; it’s an essential part of the good news of Jesus, being deeply satisfied and joyful to have God’s love, heart, mind and behavior in me; I’m tired of the personal and relational effects of my sin and my brokenness.
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 “*And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*”

### **Surrender**

- ▶ Luke 9:23-24 “*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.*” - The path of true life is through death (cross = crucifixion.)
- Motor oil / lemonade example: We must get rid of the bad before we can receive the good; “repent” to receive the good news; turn from a self-ruled life to a God-ruled life; “deny ourselves” and follow him; “lose our life” to find it.
- “Surrender” describes this process - conveys both the turning *from* and the turning *to* elements - both forsaking and attaching.
  - ▶ John 12:38-39 “*Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*” → In the spiritual world, death must precede life.
  - ▶ Romans 6:6-11 “*For we know that our old self was crucified with [Jesus] so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him . . . Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*” → A dead thing has no power. Those old ways of thinking and living no longer have any power over you. You used to be a slave to sin, but now you’re freed from sin. It’s no longer your master. Your old self-centered life is dead. → “Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” In other words, believe it – live like it’s true. By faith, believe that the balls and chains of your sin are gone. You’re free to be alive to God in Jesus. Picture Jesus ruling your life with his love.
- “No one can serve two masters” and if there are two we must hate one and love the other (Mat. 6:24). “I’m yours, Lord. Your will, not mine. I release control to you. I worship you solely. I’m yours.” **Have you said that to God? Have you given him a blank slate to write on? No conditions. No bargaining. This is where true change begins.** It’s saying that you will entrust all your hopes and dreams and joys and ambitions to God, knowing that his love is better than life.
- George Muller: “There was a day I died to George Muller, his opinions, preferences, tastes and will.”

- Picture yourself at the cross, with Jesus smiling down at you, and you laying everything you thought was valuable at his feet - then trusting him to give back to you what is truly good and valuable.

### **Seeing**

- See your sin in light of God’s holiness and love. We have a tendency to avoid guilt. We have a tendency to be spiritually blind.
- Some common means God uses to expose our sin so we can see it: (1) The Bible – We see descriptions of sin that “fit”. (2) Heart Desires – Our sins come from our heart/desires (Mat. 15:18). In every life situation ask, “What do I really want - God or self?” What do I really treasure? (3) Confrontation – Someone points out your sin to you. (4) Relationship Problems - Problems in relationships expose our self-centered heart. (5) Emotions - They reveal what we believe and want; they’re a window to our soul and a doorway to God. We stop blaming other people for our feelings.
  - ▶ 2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we all, who with unveiled faces **contemplate the Lord’s glory**, are being transformed into his image...” → “Contemplate” the Lord’s glory. Picture his glory in you; imagine it!
- Examples of changes in your life:
  - ♦ To have a greater orientation of your heart to God’s glory and less to your own self-pleasure.
  - ♦ To come to God more frequently in the daily moments of your day to listen and receive his grace.
  - ♦ To be more patient and peaceful when things aren’t going your way.
  - ♦ To be more humble and not have to have your own way, or be in control of others, or win an argument, or even have an argument.
  - ♦ To find your identity and worth more in God and not in what others, or your culture, or your own mind says you are.
  - ♦ To love others more (compassionately acting in their best interests) - especially family members and difficult people.
  - ♦ To be less critical, more understanding, more forgiving, compassionate and accepting of people.
  - ♦ To not be ruled by your emotions, but to be ruled by truth and God’s love and glory.
  - ♦ To spend money with contentment, give away money generously, and save money wisely.
  - ♦ To not be ruled by fear or worry, but to live, love and serve others boldly.
  - ♦ To take more initiative in being true friends to those who don’t know Jesus.

### **Surrender Again – with Focus**

- Now we surrender a particular sin, attitude or practice that God wants to change, something very specific to lay at Jesus’ feet, to confess to him, to long for – something to *run from* and something to *run to*.
  - Not just a one-time prayer. “Deny yourselves **daily**.” It’s surrendering to God at the moment and place of temptation - simply **stopping and turning**. You stop the undesired thought, desire or behavior just long enough to turn your whole being to God.
  - It may be as you walk through the door of your home; in the kitchen as your kids are arguing; at the computer; on the highway, on the phone, at your job, in front of a TV, in front of a mirror, or in your bed as you dread the day before you.
  - **At that moment** consider yourself dead to sin and alive in Christ. Recall God’s love for you; the goal of his glory; the beauty of holiness. Then walk into God’s heart. Right there. “Not my will but yours be done.”
    - ▶ Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
- ➔ *Do you want it? Can you see it? Are you ready now? Let the change begin!*