

## THE POWER OF SURRENDER

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

### ❖ Surrender SERVES:

*Now the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem, and the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns. The people commended all the men who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.*

Nehemiah 11:1-2 (NIV)

#### 1. Some EXPECTED to serve... these are true LEADERS.

*This is a true saying: If a man is eager to be a church leader, he desires an excellent work. A church leader must be without fault; he must have only one wife, be sober, self-controlled, and orderly; he must welcome strangers in his home; he must be able to teach...*

1 Timothy 3:1-2 (TEV)

#### 2. Some were CHOSEN to serve and ACCEPTED with joy.

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

#### 3. Some VOLUNTEERED to serve, and they SACRIFICED to do it.

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

#### ➤ Key Truth: All are CALLED to SERVE... Have you discovered the JOY of serving?

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

### ❖ Surrender WORSHIPS:

*At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres ... When the priests and Levites had purified themselves ceremonially, they purified the people, the gates and the wall ... I assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on top of the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate ... Ezra the scribe*

led that procession. At the Fountain Gate they continued directly up the steps of the City of David on the ascent to the wall and passed above the house of David to the Water Gate on the east. The second choir proceeded in the opposite direction. I followed them on top of the wall, together with half the people--past the Tower of the Ovens ... as far as the Sheep Gate. At the Gate of the Guard they stopped. The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God... On that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.

Nehemiah 12:27, 30-31b, 36b-43 (NIV)

1. Worship DEMANDS the best we can OFFER GOD for all He has done for us.  
*At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres...the priests and Levites had purified themselves...*  
Nehemiah 12:27, 30a
  2. Worship TESTIFIES of God's GREATNESS and God's GOODNESS to us.  
*I assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on top of the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate... The second proceeded in the opposite direction.*  
Nehemiah 12:31b, 38a
  3. Worship is for ALL people, not just for a CHOSEN or TALENTED few.  
*"The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away."*  
Nehemiah 12:43b
- Key Truth: All are called to WORSHIP... Have you discovered the JOY of worship?  
*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.*  
Romans 12:1 (NIV)
- ❖ Surrender GIVES:  
*At that time men were appointed to be in charge of the storerooms for the contributions, firstfruits and tithes. From the fields around the towns they were to bring into the storerooms the portions required by the Law for the priests and the Levites, for Judah was pleased with the ministering priests and Levites.*  
Nehemiah 12:44 (NIV)
1. The People GAVE out of a COMMITMENT to God's WORK.  
*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*  
Luke 6:38 (NIV)
  2. The People GAVE out of OBEDIENCE to God's WORD.  
*Bring your full tithe to the Temple treasury so there will be ample provisions in my Temple. Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.*

3. The People GAVE out of excitement that God was doing something GREAT in them.  
*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

- Key Truth: All are CALLED to GIVE... Have you discovered the JOY of generosity?  
*And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own...*

2 Corinthians 8:1-3 (NIV)

- ❖ Closing Challenge: Are you willing to totally SURRENDER your life to Christ?  
*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)