

Jesus Is Worth Your Surrender – Pt. 1 (How To Know If Jesus Is Truly Lord Of Your Life)

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- There is a vast difference between believing in Jesus and following Him.
- Many people acknowledge Jesus, claim to love Him, and even attend church, but their lives reflect little transformation.
- The call to follow Christ is not a casual invitation—it is a radical command that demands everything.
- Jesus made it clear that you either follow Him or you stay lost.

Matthew 16:24 (AMP):

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me].'"

This is the defining statement of what it means to be a true follower of Christ. It demands three things:

1. Self-Denial – Surrendering Ownership of Your Life

- The casual Christian wants Jesus to bless their plans, but the true disciple surrenders their plans to Jesus.
- Many want the benefits of salvation but resist the requirements of obedience.
- Self-denial means more than giving up bad habits—it means giving up the right to lead your own life.
- You cannot call Jesus "Lord" while still living like you are in charge.

2. Taking Up the Cross – Embracing the Cost of Discipleship

- The Cross is not a symbol of convenience but of conviction and conviction; it is an instrument of death.
- To take up your Cross is to embrace the reality that following Jesus will cost you something—your pride, comfort, reputation, and even relationships.

- The casual Christian avoids hardship, but the true disciple welcomes it, knowing that suffering for Christ is an honor.
- The Cross is not just about what you endure; it is about what you kill—your flesh, selfish ambitions, and worldly desires.

When someone was on the Cross, there was no point to have any hope of that person getting down or not dying.

3. Following Jesus – Is A Lifelong Pursuit, Not an Occasional Interest

- Many claim to follow Jesus but walk their own path. Jesus doesn't follow us—we follow Him.
- The casual Christian seeks Jesus only when convenient, but the true disciple follows Him regardless of cost.
- True discipleship is more than attending church or posting Bible verses online; it is a daily, deliberate choice to walk in obedience to Christ's commands.
- Following Jesus is not a one-time prayer but a lifetime of surrender.

The Source of Strength – Abiding in Christ

John 15:5 (AMP):

"I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing."

- A casual Christian operates in their own strength, but a true disciple remains deeply connected to Jesus, drawing life from Him.
- If your faith is weak, either your prayer life is nonexistent, and your obedience is inconsistent, or it may be because you are disconnected from the Vine.
- Fruitfulness—spiritual growth, character change, power in prayer—only happens when you stay connected to Jesus.
- If you are not bearing fruit, you are not abiding.
- If you cut yourself off from Jesus, you, your hopes, your restoration, your peace, your strength, all you are and all you need will wither away and die, but not because that is God's will for your life.

Being a Christian in name only will not save you.

Jesus isn't looking for church attendees—He is calling disciples.

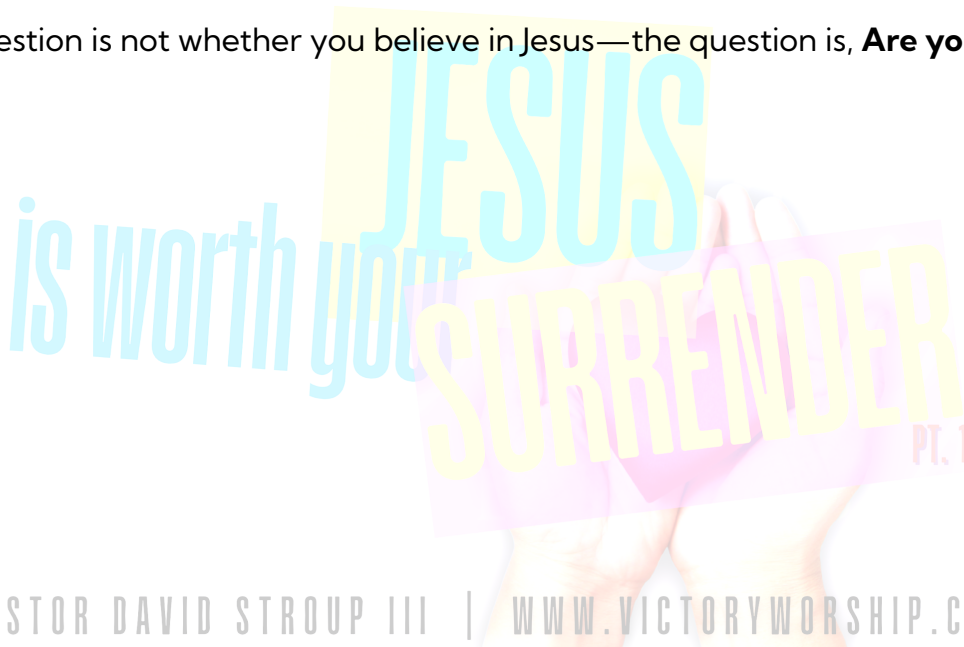
Think About It: Are you following Jesus, or are you merely claiming His Name while following yourself?

- The true disciple denies themselves, takes up their cross, and follows Jesus, no matter the cost.
- Anything less is casual Christianity, and casual Christianity is powerless Christianity.

Altar Call:

- If you have been living as a casual Christian, repent. Surrender completely.
- Commit today to real discipleship—not just belief, but obedience.
- Stop living in your own strength and abide in Christ daily.

The question is not whether you believe in Jesus—the question is, **Are you following Him?**



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Jesus Is Worth Your Surrender - Pt. 2

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1. The Tearing Down of False Security

Once you genuinely and wholeheartedly give your life to the Lord, He will tear away every structure around you that gives you false security.

- Many times, we unknowingly build our lives on unstable foundations—relationships, careers, money, achievements, and even our own understanding. But when we surrender to Christ, He begins the necessary process of removing what isn't rooted in Him.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." (Psalm 127:1)

- When God called Abraham, He told him to leave everything familiar (Genesis 12:1).
- Abraham had to walk away from his homeland, his culture, and his security to step into God's promise.

2. The Renewal and Rebuilding of Your Life in Christ

After this, He renews and rebuilds you and your life brick by brick according to His intentions and plans for you.

- The process of transformation isn't instant. God is a master builder who constructs our lives according to His perfect plan.

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2)

The Potter and the Clay –

"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." (Isaiah 64:8)

- God reshapes us for His purpose.

3. The Sacrifice of Your Old Life for the New Life in Christ

The deconstruction of the life that you built for yourself is sacrificed to make way for the construction of the new life that God has chosen for you to live through Jesus Christ.

- We must surrender the life we created on our own terms so that we can receive the life God has for us.

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

- Paul speaks of this transformation: ***"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."*** (Galatians 2:20)

The story of Saul (Paul) – He had built his life as a Pharisee, but when Jesus met him on the road to Damascus, his entire world was stripped away so he could step into God's calling (Acts 9:1-22).

4. The Struggle in the Beginning: Feeling Abandoned

In the beginning, we tend to think thoughts such as, "Where is He? Why does this feel worse, not better?"

- You're not alone in this. Even some of the strongest believers have felt abandoned at times.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

- Even Jesus, in His humanity, felt this deep sense of abandonment on the cross.
- Feelings don't dictate God's presence.

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me." (Psalm 23:4)

5. The Enemy's Resistance to Your Growth

- You're shedding old skin. The enemy fights hardest when he knows you're stepping into something powerful.

- Jesus never promised an easy road, but He did promise this:

"I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

- Many times, right after someone gives their heart to Jesus, Satan comes to tempt you to give in, give up, and walk away.
- The Parable of the Sower explains how the devil will come immediately every time you receive the Word of God.

"When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart." (Matthew 13:19)

6. The Model of Jesus in Resisting Temptation

- Thankfully, Jesus showed us in Luke 4 how to resist the devil.
- Jesus was tempted in the wilderness right after being baptized, showing that spiritual warfare often follows spiritual breakthroughs.
- **Key takeaway:** Jesus fought with **the Word of God**

"It is written..." (Luke 4:4, 8, 12)

- This is why you need to stay in the Word. The enemy attacks when you're spiritually weak, but Scripture is your weapon.

7. The Call to Stand Apart from the World

- One thing you have to remember is lost people enjoy living their lost lives. Once you're found by Jesus, you won't fit in with the lost.

"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14)

- You're called to witness, not to blend in.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14)

8. Your Identity in Christ Makes You a Target for the Enemy

- Once you are born again and you identify with Jesus Christ, you are a threat to the devil.
- When you belonged to the devil and walked in darkness, you weren't any trouble for him. But the light that is now in you exposes the devil's schemes.

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world." (Ephesians 6:12)

9. The Devil's Strategy: Wearing You Out

- The devil will try to wear you out so he can wear you down.

"He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people." (Daniel 7:25)

"Submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

10. Jesus Never Promised Ease, But He Did Promise His Presence

So Jesus said there would be troubles in this world, and I'm not gonna lie, it's GHETTOO sometimes, but He NEVER said you'd have to worry that He wouldn't walk with you through it all.

"In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

11. Pain and Suffering Remind Us to Stay in Him

- Pain, trouble, sorrow, etc., isn't a warrant to worry; it's a fact of life that reminds us to stay IN Him and remind ourselves that in HIM we have PEACE even when we don't perceive an answer, even in prolonged discomfort.

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

- The storm on the sea – Jesus was asleep while the disciples panicked.

"Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Mark 4:40)

12. Final Encouragement: God's Got You!

- You got this because God's got you!

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

- Stand firm, because your transformation is evidence that God is at work. Don't quit in the process. The best is yet to come!

My hope is that this sermon communicates the realities of transformation, spiritual warfare, and perseverance.

- Ground yourself in Scripture and be infused with encouragement to push forward in Jesus Christ.

Remember Your promise to me; it is my only hope. Your promise revives me; it comforts me in all my troubles." (Psalm 119:49-50 NLT)

- Sometimes comfort isn't about changing circumstances ... It's about changing focus.

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