

TOTAL Surrender to Christ our LORD

Part 1 of 2



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: *Total surrender, Lord, Commander, submission to Christ.*

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Summary: *Do we live and act like the Son of God is truly our Lord and Master? Do we call him “Lord Jesus” or “Yeshua my Master”? Have we unconditionally surrendered every aspect of our lives? WHY is this so vital? What does “total surrender” mean? How does it manifest itself? Understanding this topic could be life changing for you. Part 1 of 2.*

Nobody, no team, no army and no nation ever enjoy surrendering. Surrender means you lost. You’ve given up. When it comes to war, the loser is usually told they must unconditionally surrender. NO conditions. Many, many times in history, the losing army or nation paid heavily – as they became slaves to the victors or often lost everything they ever had.

In World War II, initially the Japanese defeated the Filipino and American soldiers in the Philippines in 1942. General MacArthur escaped to Australia to fight another day and return to the Philippines.

About 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers were forced to march in extreme heat for 5 days. They were treated harshly by Japanese soldiers -- and it came to be called the **Bataan Death March**. This was very real. Even our webmaster’s great uncle was in that very Death March. My uncles and father also all served in the Philippines.

The Japanese brutality to foreign soldiers who surrendered was well known. Tortures, starvation, brutality, beheadings – were commonplace. So when it came their turn to fight off the Americans getting ever closer to Japan, they fought ferociously. We lost 12,000 or more GI’s just in securing Okinawa

alone. The Japanese lost over 100,000 dead. President Truman recognized *the* death toll could be over 1 million to capture Japan itself. **So on** Aug 6 and 9, two horrific atom bombs were dropped to make Japan surrender. They did, shortly after the 2nd bomb.

Japanese were loath to yield because of honor and pride; they favored suicide charges. Refusing to surrender may also have been caused by what they heard: they were told to expect horrifying revenge from the Americans. Some individual Japanese soldiers even hid out for many years, refusing to give up.

But after to atomic bombs, Japan had to surrender. So on the deck **of battleship USS Missouri**, the Imperial armed forces of Japan surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur.

The USA was actually surprisingly kind to the Japanese. They let them keep the emperor's dignity (though he still had to follow any mandates given by McArthur) and we actually helped Japan rebuild and restore their country. The surrender was total – but in their case, surrendering wasn't so bad.

WHY the story? Because – like it or not – we were all once a part of the enemies of God. We were all ungodly – but God in his infinite love called you and me to become a part of HIS FAMILY in spite of killing his Son and breaking all his laws with impunity. So holy GOD sent his son to die for **the ungodly (Romans 5:6, 8)**.

But – FIRST – before we can become a part of his family -- WE were called to also surrender unconditionally, in much the same way the Japanese had to at the end of WW II.

So welcome to Light on the Rock. I'm Philip Shields, host and founder of this free website dedicated to Christ our Rock and Christ our Rock to the Father's glory. Everything you and I do should be to the glory of God the Father and praise to Yeshua our Messiah. If not, don't do it.

On our site, realize I will have some new sermons as **videos** and some as **audios**, even new audio sermons, so check out both. Plus we have hundreds of **blogs** – or short articles on various subjects.

And please tell others about our website if this is blessing you. It's free, it's Bible-based and you'll learn a lot. We love hearing back from you too.

We're called to unconditional surrender; giving up everything.

So yes, we had to unconditionally surrender. **Unconditional** – means we give up **everything**. We make no conditions. We hold nothing back. NOTHING back. In fact, we agree to die to the self. Every aspect of our lives has been surrendered and we're now owned by God and His Son Yeshua. God actually purchased you and me and therefore own us. **(1 Cor. 6:20; Acts 20:28)**.

I'm bringing all this up because we all CALL Yeshua – or Jesus – our Lord and Savior. No doubt he is your Savior. That's a great starting point.

But, after accepting him as Savior, have you and I taken the next steps – to really be *completely surrendered in every* aspect of our lives to him – and declare him to be our LORD, our Master, our Commander and our King?

I'm talking about total, absolute, complete surrender today – in EVERY area of our lives without any conditions. Have we really done that? Frankly, most of us have not. *I haven't yet ABSOLUTELY surrendered 100% to my Messiah either.* So I preach to and at myself in this 2-part message as well. This message caused me much personal soul-searching and repentance too!

This is an especially important topic – especially in these days of anarchy, and everyone wanting to do our own thing, or being our own person, and not wanting anyone telling us what to do. Youth are encouraged to question authority, to defy a policeman's orders, to take no notice of your parents' words.

When we surrender to God, we now have HIM telling us what He wants us to speak and say and do. We either surrender and say "Yes, sir/Lord" – or we don't surrender and are on our own and we will incur his wrath.

HAVE you unconditionally surrendered?

- **Have you taken up your cross** and followed him – to be, as Paul put it – to be crucified with him? **(Matthew 16:24)**
- Have we put him first in our lives, all the time, ahead of husband or wife, children, brothers and sisters and parents? **(Luke 14:25-27)**
- Do we bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ? **(2 Cor. 10:3-5).**
- Would we be willing as Peter said – to give up and walk away from EVERYTHING we had, to follow him **(Luke 18:28-30)?**

- Would we be willing to – as the early church Hebrew members – *joyfully* accept the plundering of our goods? (**Hebrews 10:34**).
- DO we trust him to really know and be on top of every single thing that happens in our lives now? Or do we worry? Christ orders us not to worry!

This will be a 2-part sermon – “TOTAL Surrender to Christ our Lord” – and I’ll explore all those points and more in much more detail.

WHY is this an important topic?

Because if we haven’t totally unconditionally absolutely fully surrendered to God and Yeshua (Jesus the Christ), then we haven’t gotten far on our spiritual calling yet. We’ve started. We accepted Yeshua as Savior. But now what?

Now we have to proclaim and live as if Yeshua really is our LORD, MASTER, King of kings, Lord of Lords, Captain of our salvation, our Lion of Judah. He bought us and *now owns us* and now it’s time for us to learn the meaning of the son of God being OUR LORD, OUR KING AND OUR GOD – and that’s way, way past the point of you having a Savior.

Now we have to live like we have a new owner and master who owns us!

You know scriptures refer to him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Have you attended ***a Handel’s Messiah concert?*** I loved it whenever I’d attend a **Handel’s Messiah concert**, that when we come to **the Hallelujah Chorus** – the crowd stands up, to honor Jesus as Lord of Lords. It has always moved me to be a part of that. I was blessed one time with singing in our college chorale/choir along with the Huddersfield Choral Society around 1972-73 in England. How moving that was!

And there’s coming a time – after at first it seems the forces of evil have gained insurmountable ground, and conservatives and believers in God are being silenced and even jailed – that nations will assemble to fight our King, and to fight YOU. But we will overcome them, because we are with the Lord of lords and King of kings, and he has never lost and never will – and we’ll be right there with him – IF we are faithful to the very end.

Revelation 17:14

These [ten kings and the “beast power”] will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for **He is Lord of lords** and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

Again, after the heavenly wedding supper:

“And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS”

SO – is our Savior and Messiah Jesus Christ really also *our LORD, our Commander, our Boss, Leader, owner, king and captain of our salvation?*

Let's just listen to the final minute of the end of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's rendition of Handel's Messiah- the Hallelujah chorus <https://www.thetabernaclechoir.org/watch-listen/watch-videos/music-videos/hallelujah-mormon-tabernacle-choir.html>

Hallelujah holy Messiah! Hallelujah dear Father, God Most High! Thank you, praise you, and we worship and fall down before you....Hallelujah!

The Greek word “Lord” in the New Testament is “*kurios*” – and it's translated “Lord, owner, master, husband, ruler and controller”.

A “LORD” was someone covenanted to protect and provide for you – and you were covenanted to submit to, obey, belong to this Lord's rulership over you. Sometimes this Lord had a castle – and the townspeople would flee into the castle for protection in times of attack and war. Then the Noble or king himself of that castle – along with other nobles, knights – would go and fight to defend the people and the castle. Likewise, we surrender to King Yeshua – and he is covenanted to work everything out for good for us who have covenanted with him.

SIGNS OF TOTAL SURRENDER and you've come under Yeshua's Lordship.

I have a previous AUDIO sermon on this topic, with other points. You may wish to study “Is Yeshua “LORD” of our lives?” I'm hitting different points in *this* sermon, but the previous sermon has equally valid points.

So where's the starting point?

1. **BROKENNESS: Our Point of *authentic* TOTAL SURRENDER must be when we come before God, totally BROKEN.** We've had enough of ourselves. We see our need for forgiveness. We know we need Someone else to guide our lives and we admit – we ourselves can't do it. We feel totally broken and fractured. The Bible calls this repentance. We are EAGER at this point to go a different direction now and obey God.

I think of a wild or even a young horse that has to be broken before someone can safely ride on it. The horse has to learn new rules – and to accept a saddle and reins – and a rider on his back controlling where he goes and how fast and when to stop or change directions.

A well-trained broken horse still has its own spirit and personality – but when its master/Rider and the horse are in tune, it doesn't take much at all and they move as one. As ONE. The horse is basically saying, “not my will – but yours be done.”

Yeshua prayed to our/his Father in John 17 after the Last Supper – probably in Gethsemane – “I pray that they may be one, as we are one. I pray that they may be ONE IN US...” (**John 17: 21** (paraphrased)). *It's ONLY by us being in God and God being in us – that we CAN all be one with God and each other!*

But unlike a well trained and broken horse, we too often are NOT in tune to the will of our Rider, the Master and Lord of our lives. We often don't even KNOW what his will is for us. DO you? If I asked you “what is God's will for you today, this coming week and month?” – will you know? A well-trained horse would find that crazy to hear. It knows its master's will instantly, from moment to moment when the master is riding.

So it starts with us coming before God in brokenness. We're done with ourselves. We need HIM, we want him guiding and leading us. (And remember that even this part – repenting and coming to God – is something GOD himself causes to happen – **Romans 2:4**).

Psalms 51:16-17 NKJV

“For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;
You do not delight in burnt offering.

**17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart —
These, O God, You will not despise.”**

We're not totally surrendered yet, in other words if we aren't in tune with what Master wants for you and me, moment by moment – seeking it, obeying the leading, and rejoicing to have him direct our paths.

Isaiah 66:2b

"But on this one will I look:
**On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit,
And who trembles at My word.”**

We should be constantly asking God to help us surrender to HIS will and to look for his guidance and leading – and then follow him.

A soul whose stubbornness has been broken will apply that brokenness and be **seeking direction in every single facet of his/her life. I'm not there yet.** I mean our emotional, spiritual, physical facets of our lives. Everything in our life going forward is now for our Lord's glory – not our own.

Frankly preparing this sermon has prompted much repentance on my part.

2 – Then, once in brokenness, we cry out on our knees, or face on our carpet – “MY LORD, and My GOD...I proclaim you as LORD and Master of my life and totally surrender to you. Please help me to continue to totally surrender to you, without reservation; holding NOTHING back; Surrendering all my bad habits, all my sins, anything that doesn't bring You glory. YOU, my LORD Yeshua, are my LIFE, my JOY and my GOD.”

We all have to come to the point of coming before our King Yeshua – and –proclaim Him Lord and King and our GOD! Each one's experience is unique. Like Thomas -- when he met the resurrected King and saw the nail prints and hole in his side, Thomas exclaimed “MY LORD, and my GOD...”.

John 20:27-28

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving but believing."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "**My Lord and my God!**"

We, like Thomas, must come to such a personal point in our lives like Thomas did – and frankly most of the Bible leaders we know did. Each one had to be confronted with their new Leader and Savior. We will see Christ humbling us – then lifting us back up in Him. Yeshua reprimanded Thomas and said we have to come to **believe** HIM and IN Him – without always having to first SEE what we hope to see. We have to believe and acknowledge him LORD and Master and God of your life.

I'll expand on this point in part 2 of the message on how Total Surrender HAS to mean we always – I mean ALWAYS – TRUST, TRUST, TRUST whatever Yeshua is having us go through. And I promise, much of our life will be going through very ROUGH and TOUGH trials, for even our King was perfected – finished, made complete -- by the things which he suffered! **(Hebrews 2:10; 5:8-9).**

YOU and I will also need a lot of trials to prepare us for our roles for eternity. Hardships make us stronger!

So we learn to say, “THANK YOU in this trial, and *for* this trial, as you’re teaching me to TRUST YOU no matter what, Lord Jesus – my king and High Priest, my friend and Brother!”

The time is coming that at the name of Jesus *every* knee shall bow and confess him as Lord. WE should already be doing this – proclaiming, confessing out loud that he is our LORD.

Philippians 2:8-11

“And being found in appearance as a man, He [Yeshua, the Messiah] humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11 and that every tongue should CONFESS THAT Jesus IS LORD**, to the glory of God the Father.”

The ONLY one who will not have to bow to Yeshua – is God Most High (**1 Cor. 15:24-28**).

Have your and my tongues confessed that Jesus is Lord? Don’t be shy about it. We can’t be a “closet believer”. Paul sure wasn’t. He taught there is one God – the Father, and One LORD, Yeshua – “through whom we live” (**1 Cor. 8:6**).

Confession is made in our heart and from our mouths! Part of it is out loud.

Romans 10:9-10

“If you ***confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus*** and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, ***and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***”

Acknowledge, confess your Savior out loud, with your own voice, that HE is your LORD and Master, your King and your God.

Many of you from Church of God sabbath-keeping groups or even some Hebrew Roots **groups are not in the habit of using the word “Lord” in reference** to Christ. If you prefer “Master”, that’s fine, or “Sir, or Lord, Ruler”... Something besides just his name. Start using “Lord” or equivalent – master, king, Boss, Leader ... something denoting obedience to him.

OVER 100 New Testament verses use the term “Lord Jesus” – and not just “Jesus”. Over 100! Do you ever call him “Lord Jesus”, or “Master Yeshua”, or something like that?

Here in the South, many still respond with “Sir” or “Ma’am” – “Yes ma’am” and so on. I wish everywhere around USA it would be like that.

Philippines – one’s older brother was “*manong*” and older sister was “*manang*”. A younger child was “*ading*” and an older respected man was “*apo*” – which also translates to “Lord”. In the West, we don’t have that kind of natural respect built in to our language. We could learn from the Filipinos.

So when quoting our Lord, the scriptures often just say “Jesus said...”, but when alluding to him or *talking about him*, rarely do you read just “Jesus” – but “Lord Jesus” or “Christ Jesus” or Jesus Christ (the Messiah). So don’t shy away from saying “Lord Jesus” or Yeshua the Messiah.

I recommend we get in the practice of consciously saying out loud, several times a day, and daily in prayer from now on – “King Yeshua, YOU are my LORD, raised from the dead and glorified in heaven by our Father. You are my Savior, my Redeemer, my God, my Commander... and I need you, want you, and submit to you. Help me surrender 100% to you and obey you without reservation. Let me be a finely tuned, broken “wild horse” who now seeks you and your desires in my life.”

I recommend we set **a time to fast and repent of Laodiceanism, of lukewarmness, of compromise.** Dedicate yourself to real changes in submitting to the Christ and acknowledging his lordship over you.

Have your face-to-face moment, as it were, with your Savior and King. Paul – called Saul at the time, had been attacking the body of Christ, the early Christians, until HE had his face-to-face moment with the risen Messiah. Look at what happened – **from NKJV** as the newer texts leave out much of verses 5-6. They leave out the last sentence of verse 5 and the first phrase of verse 6!

Acts 9:3-6 NKJV

As he journeyed, he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 **Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"**

5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. *It is hard for you to kick against the goads.*"

6 *So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"*

[all the italicized words are missing from newer translations]

Then **the Lord** said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

"What do you want me to do?" - and then Paul did it and obeyed from that time onward, though it threw his life as he knew it, completely upside down.

Though that question is left out of most Bible translations – **"What do you wish me to do?" – it's crucial.** Set a day of fasting to go to him in humble prayer, and ask the same words: "My Lord, what is it you wish me to do? And where have I not yet fully surrendered to you?" – then listen quietly. Answers could come quickly – or over time.

Full surrender includes this, very important: Our lives are no longer about us. No longer about what WE hope to accomplish. It's all about seeking our Master's will, just as Yeshua sought to do the will of his father. So we ask, "Lord, what do YOU wish me to do?" What do YOU want me to be doing?" That was Lord Yeshua's approach.

Before you look for work or accept a job, or decide to buy or sell a home, or decide to propose or not to the woman of your dreams – a surrendered life will always first ask God what HE would want us to do in this situation. In all the major issues of our lives – like Paul, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

Even in personal Bible study, we may study the Bible a lot – and know the scriptures, but have not **come to HIM, to know HIM, to talk to him like** you would if you were his servant, or even his slave. Which we are called – slaves to righteousness. No longer slaves to sin.

As you prepare your study, pray: “Open my eyes to see YOU in your Word, my Master.” *Even tell him “I want so badly to know that I am beginning to know you”, as Paul taught.* ASK – before each Bible study – “My Lord and King, please reveal yourself to me as I study your word.”

John 5:37-40

“And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

39 *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*

40 ***But you are not willing to come to ME that you may have life.***”

To perfectly do your master’s will and desires, you have to come to KNOW HIM. Paul said that was his greatest desire and goal in life – “...that I may KNOW him, and the power of HIS resurrection...” (Philippians 3:8-11)

Philippians 3:8-11

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the **knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain **Christ 9 and be found in Him**, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 ***that I may KNOW HIM and the power of His resurrection***, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

We can find ourselves working so hard FOR the Lord – doing this and that and serving here and there – that we don’t spend time WITH the Lord, our King Jesus. We aren’t PRAYING every single day like our lives depend on it. We get so busy.

My dad cautioned me on that – I was preparing a church-sponsored canoe trip – *“Philip don’t be serving God’s people so hard, that you forget GOD. Don’t get so wrapped working for our Lord Jesus, that you have no personal time for Jesus.”*

None of this will happen if we don't START each day with Bible STUDY and prayer. That's just a basic fundamental we must never lose. **Vince Lombardi** – famed Green Bay Packers coach – “Gentlemen, this is a football” – back to basics each year.

It's when we've been doing basic spiritual things for many years – that we forget and move away from the basics. (When I was ages 18-22 – got up early, prayed, studied at the Bible College in England...but then started to get away from that pattern, and it was disastrous. Let's be sure that habit is back in our lives.)

We must *fill* our mind with HIM – he's the Word. If we abide in Him, we will bear much fruit, he promises us in John 15:5.

DAILY HABIT OF PRAYER: You and I cannot say we are *totally surrendered to our Lord Yeshua if we do not always start and end our days with PRAYER* and seek his will, his direction, his instructions for our day – throughout the day, with lots of frequent, short contacts.

Let's leave the rest for part 2 of this sermon series on TOTAL surrender.

So just as America could not accept Japan's surrender until they placed no conditions ON THE TERMS of surrender, neither can we say we are totally surrendered if we still hang on to our will and have not been totally broken yet. Finally on the deck of the USS Missouri, in a half-hour ceremony, they signed the surrender papers and the Victory over Japan – VJ Day – was for real!

America was kind to Japan after they quit fighting us. We let them keep their traditional Emperor. We rebuilt their country, helped their economy, welcomed them into a welcoming world – though that took some years in some Asian countries to get there.

We'll find our Savior/LORD and Master is also so kind and says when we come to him, he wants to give us His abundant life, for eternity. He wants us to reign with him in his Father's kingdom. He wants us to be CO-HEIRS with him of all in the universe! WOW... the fruit of unconditional surrender is actually very sweet.

So come with your brokenness to God – and he'll love your humble spirit. Then seek his will as you proclaim him your true master/lord of your life! Like a well-trained horse – you're alert to every signal, every direction, every sound – and respond.

I'll conclude this topic next time – so many more useful points, like God's will, and bringing every thought into captivity to Yeshua the Messiah and being part of His kingdom – and no longer a part of Satan's kingdom. There's so much more about being fully surrendered coming in part 2.

Closing prayer

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Please share our site with others of like mind who wish to humble themselves before God and seek his direction. Thank you.