**I Surrender** (Three Postures of Surrendering Prayer) 6-7-20

Example: Wrestling with a neighborhood friend

***Q:*** *Why would anyone want to* ***surrender and admit*** *defeat?*

It depends on if we are surrendering to an ally or an enemy.

The concept of surrender is biblical…. ***Mark 14:35-36****.* ***James 4:6****-****7***

***Q:*** *Why Surrender?*

**To Experience Real Freedom**

Real freedom is **not** the **absence** of constraints or moral absolutes.

Ex: Skydiver free from a parachute?

We all **long** forfreedom….from fear, shame, condemnation, rejection, unrest, disease, loneliness.

Four crises all at the same time. Viral, Economic, Political, Racial

We can **know** the truth cognitively and still **live** in the bondage of fear.

 ***John 8:32*** *- “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32Then you will* ***know*** *the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

Bakers Evangelical Dictionary of Theological Concepts

***To Know - Yada*** (Heb), ***Ginosko***(Gk) – *Not primarily intellectual information but experiential exercise - (trust, rely, depend upon, intimacy).*

Child trusting father - jumping into his arms. *I know that you will catch me.*

***Q:*** *So how can* ***move*** *from cognitive knowledge to experiential knowledge* ***leading*** *to freedom?*

**Surrender to God in prayer**

*Lord*, *I* ***surrender*** *to your control.*

*“Admitting our utter helplessness; that another must do it for me is the secret of the spiritual life. ...” Andrew Murray*

I would like us to **learn** three postures of **surrender** this morning.

1. **Hands in Fists vs. Hands Reaching up**

*I* ***confess*** *that I am prone to fight, to want to control my situations to make things happen according to my plan. Take matters into my own hands.*

Judas **attempted** to take matters into his hands. - Matt 26:50 – 53

But failed to recognize that Jesus was in control of even his own death.

***Ps 46:10*** *- He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
 I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

*The original Hebrew root of ‘Be still’ (rapha) means “****let go****” or “****abandon” -***  *(IE - Stop striving to accomplish, achieve).*

***1 Peter 5:6-7*** *- Cast all your anxiety on him.*

**Children’s Sermon - Amy**

**Surrender in Prayer**: *I* ***confess*** *that I am prone to fight and control*

*But I* ***choose*** *to surrender to your leadership. Give up my rights to retaliate, defend my rights. Instead, I trust you to fight my battles. I surrender all to you. Forfeit my need to control people.*

1. **Hands Clinched vs Hand Giving**

*I* ***confess*** *I am too often* ***prone*** *to* ***hold****,* ***keep****,* ***horde****,* ***protect****,* ***consume*** *resources for myself rather than* ***give*** *to others.*

***Luke 12:16******–21, 25***  *-*Parable of rich man who stored up resources only to forfeit them all at death. We can gain the world but forfeit our soul.

Candy bars and 115 boxes of fruit examples.

***Matt 10:8*** *- Freely you have received; freely give.*

**Prayer**: *I* ***confess*** *I am too often prone to grab, keep, protect, horde, consume resources for myself.*

*Instead, I* ***choose*** *to forfeit my need to control my resources. Freely I have received. I receive your wisdom, insight, peace, patience, forgiveness, compassion so that I can freely give out of the overflow of your provision*

**Song – I Give Myself Away**

1. **Arms Folded vs. Arms Reaching Out**

*I* ***confess*** *that I am prone to focus on my own needs and* ***protect*** *my own interests before the interests of others.. I* ***confess*** *I am quick to criticize others that disagree with my opinions and convictions rather than seek to understand.*

Instead Jesus sent outhis followers to be other-centered servants….

***Luke 10:1-3. 9, 17 –*** *not easy, but rewarding*

We are **called** to **go** **out** too

***James 2:15*** *-17 – Faith without works is dead.*

Examples: Solidarity with people of color.

*The darker the world, the brighter the light.*

**Prayer**: *I* ***confess*** *I am prone to focus on my own needs and protect my own interests before the interests of others. I confess I am quick to criticize others that disagree with my convictions rather than seek to understand.*

*But I* ***choose*** *today to offer myself as a living sacrifice, to focus on others, to be willing to extend myself into uncomfortable situations so that I better understand others.*