

A Prayer of Surrender  
The Prayer that Brings a Smile to God's Face  
Ps 51:16-17

**Intro:** We will look at one more aspect of prayer before we move on. We have looked at the prayer of a **difference maker** in the prayer of Nehemiah, the prayer that calls down the **Fire of God** (His power) in the prayer of Elijah on Mt Carmel, last week we looked at the **Prayer of the over comer** in David's prayer in Psalm 61 after running for his life from his son.

Today we are going to look at the prayer that just might be the most important prayer of all... **The Prayer of Surrender**. No one likes the idea of surrender; surrender is what the loser of a battle does to avoid total annihilation. Surrender is what the weaker does to the stronger in Olympic wrestling.

Surrendering to God is one of the most challenging concepts of following Jesus. Surrendering to God involves a relationship, and this relationship involves trust and faith.

It is important to understand that God wants us to be sold out to Him completely. Luke 10:27 says, "**Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.**" This verse sums up the concept of surrendering to God. But what does it take to surrender to God?

In our text today we read **A Prayer of Surrender** written by David that tells us what it takes to be totally surrendered.

**[Read Ps 51:16-17/pray, dismiss Jr. Church]**

The text says that God doesn't **delight** in sacrifices and burnt offerings but that he **does not despise a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart**. The word **Delight** means enjoy, happiness, pleasure and gladness. The word **despise** means just the opposite. The idea of delight is what we are all should desire to bring to God in our lives. When we do something that brings God delight then we make him smile.

It is my deepest desire to live my life in such away that at least once in a while my heavenly father smiles. So what does it take to make our Heaven Father smile? He tells us in verses 16-17, **a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart**.

What is **a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart**? That is one who is completely surrendered to God. In 1 Sam 3:1-10 we read the story of how God called young Samuel into his service, Eli and young Sam have both gone to bed for the night. Then there is a voice that calls "Samuel." Sam runs to Eli's bed side and says, "you called me?" but Eli didn't and tells him to go back to bed. The voice calls again, "Samuel" and again young Sam runs to Eli's bedside only to be turned away a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. A third time the voice calls, "Samuel" and third time Sam runs to Eli's room. By this time Eli has figured out just what is going on. He realizes that it is God who is calling Sam so he tells Sam to **"...Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth."** Well sure enough Sam goes back to his bed and the Voice calls again, **"Samuel, Samuel..."** and this time Samuel responds just as the old priest has told him to, **"...Speak; for thy servant heareth."** That is what surrender is. In our day and age our prayer is **"Heareth; for thy servant speak."** But you Sam prayed just the opposite. He was surrendered.

What does it take to be surrendered like Samuel was and like David was? In David's prayer of Surrender we find out just what it takes...

**The Prayer of Surrender...**

**1. BEGINS WITH AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF WHO WE ARE** Vv. 1-6

A. Conviction Vv. 1-2

B. Confession Vv. 3-5

**THE PRAYER OF SURRENDER...**

**BEGINS WITH AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF WHO WE ARE**

**2. LEADS TO A REALIZATION OF WHAT WE REALLY NEED Vv. 7-12**

**A. Purge me with hyssop**

- 1) The hyssop was used to sprinkling blood or water and was used of atonement
- 2) Atonement means to apologize or make amends for all our sin
- 3) This is the idea of being made **whiter than snow** as opposed to scarlet-stain of sin

**B. Make me to hear joy and gladness**

- 1) Through forgiveness, his anxious, guilt-ridden distress will be changed to joy
- 2) Nothing soothes the anxious heart like the comfort of knowing that we are forgiven

**C. Bones...broken...**

- 1) His anxious guilt breaks up his most solid inner substances (bones)
- 2) Carrying around the great burden of sin can affect us physically

**D. Hide thy face from my sins...**

- 1) When Adam and Eve sinned the first thing they wanted to do was hid from God (Gen 3:8).
- 2) The Lord told Is Isaiah that he would “**...blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins**”
- 3) What we need is our transgressions forgotten and our sins “blotted out”
- 4) David said in Psalm 103:12 that “**As far as the east is from the west**” was how far God would remove his transgressions from him when he forgave him.

**E. Create in me a clean heart...**

- 1) To create a totally new heart; one that is completely different from the old one, is a sovereign work of a holy creator God.
- 2) In 2 Cor 5:17 Paul tells us that when we are saved we become a new creation, “**...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new**”
- 3) The Clean heart is one that is free from sin and the guilt of sin
- 4) This then brings about the joy he speaks of in verse 12.

**F. Renew a right spirit...**

- 1) **Renew** implies that he had formerly possessed it; the essential principle of a new nature had not been lost, but its influence had been interrupted
- 2) **A right spirit**—or a “willing spirit”; He requests the renewal of desire within him to willingly follow God’s law so he would be firm in a right course of conduct

**G. Cast me not away...and take not thy holy spirit from me**

- 1) This does not imply that he was saved then he was lost
- 2) The personal presence of the Holy Spirit in the OT was not unknown
- 3) He had, as he says “**lost the joy of**” his salvation
- 4) He prays for that return.

**THE PRAYER OF SURRENDER...**

**BEGINS WITH AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF WHO WE ARE**

**LEADS TO A REALIZATION OF WHAT WE REALLY NEED**

**3. RESULTS IN A PASSION FOR WHAT GOD WANTS Vv. 13-15**

A. Verse 13 begins with **Then** which tells us that the result of his repentance and forgiveness follows

**B. A passion for Sinners to be converted**

- 1) He will be a witness – **Teach**
- 2) He will set himself up as a role model for others.

**C. A passion to Praise God**

- 1) He then prays for God to **open thou my lips; and my mouth shall she forth thy praise.**
- 2) Oh how he desired to praise him now

D. Grace should have this affect on all saved.

- 1) Seeing souls saved
- 2) Praising God
- 3) This is the rightful response to God’s grace.

**THE PRAYER OF SURRENDER...**

**BEGINS WITH AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF WHO WE ARE  
LEADS TO A REALIZATION OF WHAT WE REALLY NEED  
RESULTS IN A PASSION FOR WHAT GOD WANTS**

4. Which Brings A Surrendered Heart: And That Makes God Smile vv. 16-17

A. David says **thou desirest not sacrifice** what he is saying is; after I have gone through this prayer I have discovered something:

- 1) External acts of worship are not enough
- 2) He wanted to delight God; the world smile means to make happy or make smile; his desire was to make God smile.
  - (a) The required sacrifices were not enough.
  - (b) Burnt offerings would not make him smile

B. So what was that David had come to realize would make God Smile?

1) A **broken spirit**

- (a) This means to crushed
- (b) A spirit that his humble and moldable
- (c) A spirit that God can make into something useful
- (d) Isaiah 64:8 says **"But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."**
- (e) In Romans 9:20-21, **"...O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?"**
- (f) When we surrender our will to His will we have a broken spirit and we become like the clay in a potters hand

2) A **broken and contrite heart**

- (a) Broken and contrite is a word that isn't used much in our world anymore because it means something that very few like to acknowledge – it means to be sorry, remorseful, ashamed, regretful and most important retentive
- (b) Few in our world today have **broken and contrite hearts**
  - (1) We don't like to admit we are wrong, We don't like to apologize
  - (2) We don't want to humble ourselves to this level
- (c) What really delights God is a heart that is open, humble, and dependent upon God

3) The verse says that these two things, **a broken and broken and contrite heart** God **will not despise**

- (a) That means when we have a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart this is what delight God
- (b) To delight God means to put a smile on his face.

**Conclusion:** It is related in Roman history when the people of Collatia stipulated about their surrender to the authority and protection of Rome, the question asked was, "Do you deliver up yourselves, the Collatine people, your city, your fields, your water, your bounds, your temples, your utensils, all things that are yours, both human and divine, into the hands of the people of Rome?" On their replying, "We deliver you all," they were received. -- Topical Illustrations

There is an old poem the catches what surrender, God kind of surrender really is:

*When I stand at the judgment seat of Christ  
And He shows me His plan for me;  
The plan of my life as it might have been  
Had He had His way, and I see  
How I blocked Him here and I checked Him there  
And I would not yield my will,  
Shall I see grief in my Savior's eyes;  
Grief though He loves me still?*

*Oh, He'd have me rich, and I stand there poor,  
Stripped of all but His grace,  
While my memory runs like a hunted thing  
Down the paths I can't retrace.  
Then my desolate heart will well-nigh break  
With tears that I cannot shed  
I'll cover my face with my empty hands  
And bow my uncrowned head  
No. Lord of the years that are left to me  
I yield them to Thy hand.  
Take me, make me, mold me  
To the pattern Thou hast planned.*