

Week 1: Living Surrendered Lives Shaped by Gratitude and Devotion

Speaker: Willie Bowman

A surrendered life is about giving ourselves fully to God. Gratitude becomes the posture of the heart, and devotion becomes the daily expression of that surrender.

Surrender Begins with Recognizing What God Has Given Us. (Romans 12:1)

- Gratitude begins when we recognize God's goodness.
- Everything we have ultimately comes from Him.
- A grateful heart is less concerned with what it can get and more concerned with what it can give.
- Surrender is our response to grace.

Gratitude Changes the Posture of the Heart. (Colossians 3:15–17)

Gratitude produces:

- Contentment instead of comparison • Worship instead of complaining
- Trust instead of anxiety • Generosity instead of selfishness • Joy instead of entitlement

Surrender Requires Trust. (Proverbs 3:5–6)

Surrender means trusting God with what we cannot control.

Sometimes we surrender:

- Our plans • Our timing • Our relationships • Our finances • Our ambitions • Our fears
- Our need to understand everything

Devotion Is Surrender Lived Out Daily (Luke 9:23)

Devotion looks like:

- Choosing obedience when it's inconvenient • Praying when we don't feel like praying
- Forgiving when we have been hurt • Serving when nobody notices • Giving when it costs us
- Following God's Word when culture disagrees • Remaining faithful when results are slow

Love Is the Motivation for Obedience. (John 14:15)

- Christian devotion should not be driven primarily by fear, guilt, or religious performance.
- We obey because we love Christ.
- The question isn't merely, “What am I required to do?” It becomes, “How can I respond to the One who has given everything for me?”
- When love is the foundation, obedience becomes an expression of gratitude.

A Surrendered Life Becomes a Living Offering (Romans 12:1)

Our worship isn't limited to singing on Sunday. Our entire lives become an offering.

- Work can worship. • Family life can worship. • Relationships can worship. • Finances can worship.
- Gifts and talents can worship. • Service can worship. • Private decisions can worship.
- Begin each morning with three statements:
“Lord, thank You for ____.”
“Lord, I surrender ____ to You.”
“Lord, today I will honor You by ____.”

Closing Thought

A surrendered life is not an empty life. It is a life fully available to God. Gratitude reminds us why we surrender, trust enables us to surrender, and devotion teaches us how to live surrendered every day.

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Things to Think About

- If you don't recognize God's goodness, can you have gratitude?
- What has God done for me that should change the way I live for Him?
- What does surrender look like to you and how does that affect the way you live your life?
- Why do we still try to control things when God is asking us to entrust those things to Him?

NOTES:

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