

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

September 8, 2014

Total Surrender

LUKE 1:38 NIV – (38) "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Through Mary's words she expresses her obedience of faith; she owns herself to be the handmaid of the Lord, and desires to obey him, and be submissive to him as such and humbly acknowledges her great unworthiness. She concurred with the Angel, who said it should be unto her. She earnestly desired it might be, and firmly believed it would be. She set her "Amen" to the angel's message. As for the Angel, he returned to the heavenly regions from whence he came; to his great Lord and master, that sent him; having dispatched the business he came about, and which he was accountable to him for.

You know you've surrendered to God when you rely on God to work things out instead of trying to manipulate others, force your own agenda, and control the situation. You let go and let God work. You don't have to always be in charge. Instead of trying harder, you trust more. Jesus surrendered himself to God's will. He prayed, "God, if it is in your best interest to remove this suffering, please do so. But if it fulfills your purpose, that's what I want, too." This level of maturity doesn't come easily. In Jesus' case, he agonized so much over God's plan that he sweated drops of blood. Surrender is hard work. In our case, it requires intense warfare against our self-centered nature.

The goal of every Christian should be to become Christ-like, and to live life with the courage, compassion, power and principles of Jesus. His greatest example was that He surrendered Himself completely to the will of the Father by offering His life as a sacrifice for mankind. Every Christian benefits from the work accomplished by Jesus. Now it is the Christian's turn to offer a sacrifice of self. The fact is, for God to use us for His glory, "We must surrender to Him!"

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 23:26

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Give up and have faith!

