

# What is the Relevance of Surrendering to God

(Go To Meeting)

Norbert Bohnert—December 23, 2022

I'm going to try to give you a heartwarming message, and it will *not* be a Christmas message.

The world that we live in today, we find a time of vast uneasiness, and uneasy change where economic, social, political and religious turmoil are basically the rules of the day.

A constant bombardment produces a toxic environment that we're living under of:

- unresolved stress, which leads to disconnected lives
- disconnected lives leads to helplessness
- helplessness, over time, leads to inescapable captivity.
- captivity eventually leads to this desperation

***Desperation is what we see going on around us today!*** Violent acts and worse, ***all under the influence of Satan!***

Though we have been called, we have a certain measured distance from the world, but at the same time we are still living in this world. We have to observe all these things, even if it's from a distance. We are no immune to what is happening out there, to the effects of what's going on in this world today.

So, with this background in mind, I want to talk about relevancy today, and expound on that as it applies to us spiritually and in this world that we are living in today; ***as the called out ones!***

Let us first start by saying that relevancy plays particularly important part in everyone's lives in combating this world's slide into that helpless state that we see.

Even with what's going on around us in this world, do not be caught up in this helplessness. How do we achieve that? ***We can do this when we figure out how to be relevant!*** This may still seem very vague but I hope to make this much clearer as we progress through the message.

What does it mean to be relevant? ***It is defined as the state of being closely connected or appropriate to the matter in hand!***

Relevance is a thought process or state of mind when one feels a strong part of what one feels is important in life. They feel a connectedness to what is important. The crux or the core issues

affecting them. That they literally have an important part to play in.

You and I look at the world much differently than others around us; yet, we are still a people who wish to be and feel relevant and important. Not from a selfish point of view, rather from a point of view that we as individuals are apart of something. Relevance is an especially important part of that! That we be apart of something!

While we consider our daily employment, our roles and responsibilities being of relevance and importance, really from our perspective it is all temporary. The ideas of what the world holds for us, as far as what they feel is relevant is a very, very temporary thing.

Whatever we do is a service! Whether it is to our corporation or what we do for the Church, whatever it may be, it is still on a physical plain. The relevancy to which we should attain is not that, though it's needed! But really, it is dwarfed and overridden by what we really need to feel relevance in.

In it's ultimate sense, being relevant means to be strongly connected in serving, fulfilling and an important part of a larger scheme, a grander plan, or the ultimate matter in hand. In other words:

- What is happening right now?
- What is important in life?

I ask another important question. I'm not asking this from a collective perspective, but it's a question that each of us individually must answer:

- Are you and I relevant?
- Are we individually connected in serving and fulfilling an important part of a much large scheme?
- A grander plan with the ultimate matter in hand?

This is a question we cannot simply dismiss by thinking. Our God promises us eternal relevancy:

- serving His will
- serving His larger scheme
- serving His grand master plan

***The ultimate matter in hand!*** That is true, but it's too easy to answer that way saying"

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Yes, I'm relevant. Since I regularly attend services and a member of the Church of God, I think I'm relevant.

- Is that a valid thought?
- Is that what makes us relevant?
- A part of something bigger?
- A part of something important?

To answer these questions, we should be able to look back each day, each week and each year as they go by to see how relevant we are.

God has His annual Holy Days, and He repeats them on a yearly basis according to the Hebrew Calendar. We are there learning to get answers to certain questions of what God's Plan entails. Each day, each week, each year we look back and ask ourselves:

- Where am I?
- What have I learned?
- Am I actively serving and fulfilling the ultimate matter at hand that God has for me? *For you!*

Let us begin to answer this by looking at those who know who were relevant and we will again, at Christ's return, be relevant!

- What did each learn and do in order to become relevant?
- What led Abraham to be willing to sacrifice his son Isaac?

***Abraham, I think we must agree, is one of the most relevant men in Scripture!***

- What led Noah to spend 120 years building the ark?
- What led Moses to faithfully lead the people of Israel through the wilderness for 40 years?
- What led King David not to kill King Saul, though he had the opportunity on more than one occasion, knowing that God had promised him the throne?
- What led John the Baptist to accept that he must decrease and Christ increased?
- What led Paul to remain faithful though he suffered much for the name of Christ?
- What let Christ to say, 'Not My will but Yours be done?'

All these names we find in Heb. 11, and without a doubt these were relevant men! Christ would say that they were relevant men. The fact that they are in the Scriptures reveals that they were relevant. So, we may think the ingredient is faith, since Heb. 11 is the faith chapter. If faith is required,

the relevancy was and will be due to what the faith led these individuals to do.

- What is it that we must do?
- What is it that each one of us has to do?

Let's go to Jesus Christ for our example!

1-Peter 2:21: "For to this you were called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His footsteps; Who committed no sin; neither was guile found in His mouth; Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; *when* suffering, He threatened not, but committed *Himself* to Him Who judges righteously" (vs 21-23).

Christ committed Himself to His Father Abraham, Noah, Moses, David, John the Baptist and Paul also committed to their Father and our Father. They were all relevant in the Father's Plan.

If we wish to be relevant we must do the exact same thing. As it says here in 1-Pet.—*commit ourselves!* Not something in the future, but commit ourselves and that means now. The English word *commit* does not fully express what the Greek really conveys.

Verse 23: "Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; *when* suffering, He threatened not, but committed *Himself* to Him Who judges righteously."

In other words, committed and entrusted. It begins to give us a little bit better understanding. The Greek word is 'paradidomi'—three primary meanings come up for this word:

1. give into the hands of another
2. give over into another's power or use
3. to deliver another something to keep, use, take care of and manage

This means that Christ, while committed to His Father, gave His life to His Father. Jesus Christ surrendered Himself; His life to His Father, and to His Father's grander master plan! *The definition of relevancy!*

If we replace committed with surrendered, what do we read?

Verse 23: "Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; *when* suffering, He threatened not, but **surrendered** *Himself* to Him Who judges righteously."

To us means *the surrendering the life we have to the One to Whom it actually belongs!* The One Who gave us that life. Because our lives are not our own, it was given to us, entrusted. We are to

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surrender it to the One Who gave it to us, that being God the Father.

Surrender is an absolute necessity in becoming the individuals that we need to become. What is *surrender*? According to Webster's Dictionary, surrender is *an action verb*. There is nothing passive about the word. It means to *stop fighting, hiding and resisting because we know that we will not win or succeed!* We will not succeed in our direction. It also means *to give control or use of something or someone to someone else!* It also means *to allow something or someone to influence us or control us!* Considering these definitions:

Have we surrendered ourselves to God? *In surrendering ourselves to God we are serving a much grander plan and hence, we gain that relevancy, that importance!* But not importance from the point of view that we are someone special.

***But relevance from the point of view that we know God and that what He is accomplishing is not temporary, but permanent!***

To emphasize the point of my message, these are personal questions for each one of you, and I will also ask these questions for myself. ***IF*** we answer yes to any of these questions, which I'm sure we will, ***THEN*** we are fully, unconditionally surrendered to God"

1. Do I ever strive to control situations and others?
2. Do I meticulously plan most things in my life?
3. Do I feel disappointed if things don't go as I planned?
4. Do I feel or reveal agitated, angry or discontentment at any time?
5. Do I have unreal expectations of myself and/or others?
6. Do I feel my solutions to problems are better than others?
7. Do I push my way ahead of others?
8. Do my physical accomplishments determine my self-worth?
9. Do I feel put off if my ideas are not accepted by others?
10. Is my self-worth founded in how others view me?

All questions, brethren, we should be asking ourselves. I am a 100% sure that at least one of those questions the answer is *yes!* ***For someone surrendering to the Father, surrender means these things!***

- following God's lead without knowing where He is sending us

- waiting for God's timing without knowing when it will come
- expecting a miracle, which is called *faith*, without knowing how God will provide
- entrusting God's purpose without understanding the circumstances in life

In other words, we know we have surrendered to God when we rely totally on God to work things out, instead trying to manipulate or trying to wrestle it out of His hands, forcing our agenda and taking control of the situation.

Does this all sound familiar to you? When I say *control the situation* that does not mean that we do not plan. But the idea is that we can sit thinking how it should be, instead of looking to God and expecting Him to show us, over time, when it will come.

All these things, in terms of forcing an agenda, controlling the situation are works of the *old way, the old inner man!* Instead, *we are to let go and let God work!* We do not have to be in charge. Instead of trying harder to accomplish things, ***we trust harder in God to lead us!*** Skill effort is involved, and we must apply ourselves, which is so important. This can only occur if we apply ourselves and have the will!

The desire to accomplish is not diminished, but the realization of Who knows best and trust Him to do it!

Are we convinced that God has our best interest at heart, and know that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him?

Roman 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose."

As we read in 1-Peter, Christ is our perfect example of surrender. We have to turn nowhere else to find what surrender means and what has to be done.

Philippians 2:6: Who, although He existed in *the* form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself, *and* was made in *the* likeness of men, *and* took the form of a servant; and being found in *the* manner of man, He humbled Himself, *and* became obedient unto death, even *the* death of *the* cross" (vs 6-8).

There we see Christ, Who was God in spirit, and before He came was also God in the flesh. He did not view His power, the ultimate control that He had with all the rights and prerogatives as God, was something that He thought He had to lay a hold of and claim.

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While there's no doubt that our God has and possesses all power and control, yet, Christ does not define Himself by that power and control. He defines Him as we read in:

Exodus 34:6: "And the LORD passed by before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and Truth, keeping mercy to the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,** but Who will by no means clear *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, to the third and to the fourth generation'" (vs 6-7).

Christ defines Himself as "**...merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and Truth, keeping mercy to the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...**"

He does that instead of claiming the power! Christ allowed Himself to be subjected to death like every man, and willingly surrendered everything to glorify His Father; to be an example of faith and obedience for each one of us!

Hebrews 5:7: "Who, in the days of His flesh, offered up both prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him Who was able to save Him from death, and **was heard because He feared God.** Although He was a Son, *yet*, He learned obedience from the things that He suffered; and having been perfected, He became *the* Author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him" (vs 7-9).

When Christ and the Father made the decision that Christ would become flesh, Christ understood that the only One could restore Him back to glory—the glory that He had with His Father beforehand—was His Father. He also knew that only through surrendering to the Father in Godly fear could He be perfected through all the suffering that entailed.

How contrary is that to our way of thinking? We are individuals who strive to hold on, yet in stark reality *we have no control!* We are individuals who fight against suffering instead of striving harder to surrender, allowing it to work perfection and maturity to the whole stature of Christ. ***That's our human thinking!*** If surrendering was essential for Jesus Christ—Who was perfect, Who was God—how much more is it for us brethren?

Christ told Paul on the road to Damascus, 'it's hard for you to kick against the pricks,' which meant to *show your opposition to authority!* As He

outlined, the surrender required by Paul to fulfill the purpose Christ had for Paul to do. Christ understood that surrender is the easier path. He tells us that exactly in:

Matthew 11:28: Come to Me, all you who labor and are *overly* burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light'" (vs 28-30).

A yoke can refer to any device that assists in carrying out for pulling loads. Christ's yoke was one of total surrender to the will of the Father. In this Scripture, Christ is telling us that first we are to take the same yoke of humble surrender to the Father's will.

Secondly, if we take on the yoke we will find that it's easier, not harder! By *rest* Christ is referring to a life of peace that can only be acquired through surrendering when you take on His burden.

Philippians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything; but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God in everything; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever *things* are true, whatever *things* are honorable, whatever *things* are just, whatever *things* are pure, whatever *things* are lovely, whatever *things* are of good report; if *there be* any virtue and if *there be* any praise, **think on these things**" (vs 6-8).

If we are to surrender to God, and that surrender is to be easy and peaceful, why do often feel so heavy laden and stressed? *Sometimes it simply our own selfish fleshly desires, wanting to do what we want to do!* Which, of course, results in difficulties.

Remember that we are still human, fighting our human nature. We are carnal, so we always have that battle working against us. Quite often it is more a question of our ***not knowing where our responsibility ends and God's begins!***

Overall, God wants us to be people who are responsible, whose desire is to do the right things. So, we take responsibility upon ourselves and attempt to carry the weight! To us that means *we have to try harder!*

Naturally, we see ourselves as a first resource in accomplishing those things. We are faced with choices daily, and decisions made every day in every role that we fill, whether we are a child, teenager, or an adult; single, married; a parent, a spouse; an employee or employer; whatever it may

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be. Most the choices are within the normal course of our day.

In other words, when we are first parents, it's very difficult. I just became a grandfather to a baby girl five weeks ago. *What a joy that was!* But my son and daughter-in-law are still getting accustomed to what it is like to be a first time parent.

There is a time that sometimes it becomes yes, but it is still difficult. We start doing things on 'autopilot'! At first we are praying to God, but as we become more comfortable, as we do things day after day in things that we do, that we can accomplish 'in our sleep,' that is exactly the way we sometimes approach it. We do everything, or a lot, without bringing God into our choices.

Sometimes the choices take more thought, so we dig a little deeper into ourselves. Usually our first reaction to find answers.

Then come the times when we hit the hard things in our life. If we have wisdom, we realize that they are outside of our abilities. We all have 'hard heads' at times, stubborn! Sometimes it takes a long time to realize that we are just fighting the battle on our own. This is normally the situation where we finally, finally turn to God and we look for input! We ask Him for help!

It's when we begin to surrender to God, bring Him into the mix, when we are totally destitute and have no other route to go! We tend to think of surrendering as those moments in life when we must stop and consider what God would desire us to do in certain hard situations and circumstances.

Those are the moments of matter in hand, then we submit to His lead. This is good, but if we limit our surrendering to just situations here and there—moments in time, those little matters in hand—we miss the real point. God does not want us surrendering just in situations:

- God, please handle this
- God, please handle that

That does not mean that we do not ask those things. What He wants is for us to surrender ourselves. We are to be no different than Christ was.

- How did Christ surrender to His Father?
- Did He surrender in situations? *Yes, He did!*

*But He did more than just surrender in situations!*

John 5:30: "I have no power to do anything of Myself; but as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just because **I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father Who sent Me.**"

I am sure that we are all here for the same reasons. We look to Jesus Christ as our example. We look to Jesus Christ to tell us the Truth. So, when Christ says nothing, what does He mean? *He means nothing!* 'I can of Myself do nothing!'

Do you think that way? *He did not make any choice, decision or judgment using His own will!* Nothing too small, nothing too large! We continue to run, at times, on autopilot. ***Christ did not run on autopilot!***

He surrendered His will to the Father, Who expressed His will through Christ. Christ understood the weakness of His flesh. He told the disciples, 'the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.' His surrender was not only given in particular situations. He surrendered everything. He knew that if He allowed the natural pulls of the flesh, or the body, or the mind to go on autopilot, that He could sin.

Looking back at ourselves, our personal lives, can we be safe to say that the majority of our personal sins are when we are on autopilot? When I respond to my wife, how do we respond? Many times on autopilot. That's the way your mind thinks! When I deal with my colleagues, I reply in a way that afterward I wish I had not. I can honestly say that I did not include God.

So, when Christ says nothing, He means *nothing!* The epitome of Christ relinquishing His will for the Father is when He brushed aside His will and He said,

If this could pass from Me, take this cup away from Me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but You will!

*It was the Father's will!*

Mark 14:35: "Then He went forward a little, dropped to the ground and prayed, that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, 'Abba, Father, all things *are* possible with You. Remove this cup from Me! Yet, not what I will, but what You *will*'" (vs 35-36).

For a moment Christ did tell the Father His situation. But never did He not look at the Father and convey that He was living in the Father. He realized that He could not do what He was going to do without the Father. He knew His flesh, He knew His fear, but included the Father in everything!

It is okay to ask God a question, because Christ Himself did. It was not outside of the will of the Father that He ask those thing, but He included His Father in everything. There was not a moment when He said, 'No, I cannot do this.' He was bleeding blood, but always was in prayer to the Father.

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I could not help but thing, too, when He went up into the mountains to pray, every day, every morning before the sun rose, that was in preparation for everything that He was going to do that day, so that He would not do those things on His own, and that the Father was always with Him!

We know that He had an extra amount of the Holy Spirit. He was directly connected to the Father.

Scripture tells us that if we surrender, truly surrender, which means that even as I am speaking here now, I do not know all that that entails.

- What is total surrender? *I have not done it!*
- Have you totally surrendered?

We know that Jesus Christ has, but we have not done it as God's people. It is a process! Yes, it's all part of the process! Part of the conversion process!

As we struggle for our own relevancy we need to understand that surrendering to the Father is where it begins. Christ's surrender was driven by two Godly non fleshly purposes:

1. **to reveal the Father to mankind**

John 14:8: "Philip said to Him, 'Lord, **show us the Father, and that will be sufficient for us.**' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long a time, and you have not known Me, Philip? **The one who has seen Me has seen the Father;** why then do you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (vs 8-9).

Christ's first reason for surrendering of His will was so that mankind would know the mind of the Father. So, Christ would not interject anything other than what the Father had desired to be revealed.

Have you ever found yourself talking to someone who has questions, worried and needs your help? We in the ministry find ourselves in that situation quite a lot.

Do you find yourself surrendering to God at that moment, to give an answer? Why? *Because of not wanting to come between man, other people and God!*

That is where prayer and why Christ prayed continually, because He did not wish to become. He pointed always to the Father. There was no other way. Our surrender should be no different!

2. **He wanted to make sure the that the Father received the glory and all the credit**

Verse 10: "Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I speak to you, I do not speak from My own self; but the Father Himself, Who dwells in Me, does the works."

Our surrender is no different than Christ's! The old fleshly ways want their glory, while the surrendered only desire to glorify the Father. ***Our surrender is to be that we, in our lives, revealed the Father, and that we give glory to the Father!*** There's also another reason why we can find ourselves heavy laden and struggling with the concept of surrendering.

It stems from fear and from guilt! When we do not have the correct perspective about surrendering, we rely too much on our own strength to overcome and change.

If you are like me, whenever I try to do this, I totally fail! We all think that we should be stronger than we really are. We are told that we should worship our Father in sincerity and in truth. Part of having that sincere truthfulness is knowing who and what we are. For when we are sincere and truthful about who we are with our Father, we see someone willing to surrender to Him.

Psalm 34:18: "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are of a contrite spirit."

When we know our state and express it to our Father, that is when we draw near to our Father, and we allow Him to actually work in our lives.

James 4:7: "Therefore, submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, you sinners, and purify *your* hearts, you double-minded! Be grieved and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into grieving, and *your* joy into mourning. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you" (vs 7-10).

We must realize that our condition is terminal, and without our Father's continually healing of our fallible state, we will fail. We do not, and never will, have the strength to overcome without our willing submission to His direction and His care. It is His strength and involvement that overcomes our sins. It is our submission that enables it. That is part of the will that we need to put forth:

- draw near to God
- share with Him our weaknesses and struggles
- recognize those struggles

*We all have them!*

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Many times we have the thought: *it's okay, we are only human!* That's the excuse we use. Use that with the deep understanding that our need is for God. We, on our own by ourselves, can do nothing! We often do not stop and realize that God knows whom He has called. He knows each one of us. Sometimes we run around trying to hide our sins pushing them off into the corner and pretending that God does not see them.

But God knows who we are, *before we see it ourselves!* The people He calls are not the wise of the world, as we are told. They are those whom He knows He can work with. Those who will honestly look at themselves over time and change.

1-Corinthians 1:26: "For you see your calling, brethren, that *there are* not many who are wise according to the flesh, not many who are powerful, not many who are highborn *among you*. Rather, God has chosen the foolish things of the world, so that He might put to shame those who are wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world so that He might put to shame the strong things. And the lowborn of the world, and the despised has God chosen—even the things that are counted as nothing—in order that He might bring to nothing the things that are; so that no flesh might glory in His presence" (vs 26-29).

The last time I hit myself against something, it hurt! Last time I got ill, it did not feel well.

Verse 30: "But you are of Him in Christ Jesus, Who was made to us wisdom from God, even righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'The one who glories, let him glory in the Lord'" (vs 30-31).

Each one of us really brings nothing to the equation other than surrendering. It is not God plus us that equals glory. It is God Who equals glory, and we need to be okay with that concept. It's part of the yoke, part of the surrender portion.

It is only through the recognition of our weaknesses that we can surrender to God. He is able to live His life powerfully through us. When we recognize our weaknesses, we are better and stronger.

2-Corinthians 12:9: "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you; for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, most gladly will I boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ may dwell in me. For this reason, I take pleasure in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ; **for when I am weak, then I am strong**" (vs 9-10).

Paul is talking about this in the physical sense. But the same thing is true spiritually. *When*

*we recognize that we are spiritually weak, and we go to God and surrender to Him, **He will make us strong!*** When we are weak, we are more willing to surrender to God, because we cannot do it ourselves! ***We understand our desperate need for Him when we recognize our weakness!*** We strive to always be near Him!

When we recognize that we are weak and live our lives according to that, you literally believe that if you have not been in contact with God for a portion of the day or even hours you begin to feel that loss. That is the type of surrender that God wants.

Being human is not something that should cause us guilt. But rather it should drive us to our knees to ask God to help us surrender to He Who has already won the battle. Jesus Christ has already won the battle! He surrendered! He asks the same of us and asks us to also recognize what Christ has done for us.

Romans 8:37: "But in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through Him Who loved us."

That whole phrase is just one work, it only exists once. What it means is, when the enemy attacks he has lost the battle before it started, that you are a super conqueror. We in our weakness, and the fact that we have come and surrendered to God and that He is with us. Then we, just like Christ, begin to conquer through Him who loves us.

Verse 38: "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 38-39).

If we surrender our Father and Jesus Christ put Their arms around us and never let us go! If we are true to Them, They will be looking after us, taking care of us! They will! Do not run off this or that way, **but we must trust God!**

If we could do it on our own, we could glory in ourselves. But flesh and blood have no glory! Somehow we think we are responsible for our salvation. If we think that way, we are already dead! It is Christ's responsibility. He tell us that!

Hebrews 12:1: "Therefore, *since* we are surrounded by such a great throng of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily entraps us; and let us run the race set before us with endurance, **having our minds fixed on Jesus, the Beginner and Finisher of our faith**; Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured *the* cross, *although* He despised *the* shame, and **has sat down**

**at the right hand of the Throne of God”** (vs 1-2).

When we take a deeper look at surrender, all meant to lead each one of us to the point that God is the One Who will get us there. That we, by ourselves, are not adequate!

- we cannot pass the test
- we cannot make the grade
- we do not have the faith

*We come to admit that God is our only salvation!* When we are finally led to the point, instead of giving up and becoming irrelevant, we give ourselves wholly to God so that He may accomplish whatever it is He has for each one of us to do.

God has a plan for you and me and we submit to whatever He allows so that we might glorify the deeds of the flesh, and from that death bring forth a life that pleases Christ and the Father.

We are not unique from the world when it comes to experiencing the economic, social, political and religious turmoil. But we strive in it's midst to make ourselves relevant by defining God's temporary grander purpose and plans.

However, we do not have the burden of defining the grander plan or purpose. It has been defined for us! We need not fall where the plans or purposes that are defined by the world that is around us.

Instead we must surrender ever moment of our lives to our Father's grander plan, His master plan that He has set aside for mankind; for us, the firstfruits, and purpose. Realize that through that we will gain eternal relevance.

**Are you and I relevant to surrender to God?**

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 Peter 2:21-23
- 2) Romans 8:28
- 3) Philippians 2:6-8
- 4) Exodus 34:6-7
- 5) Hebrews 5:7-9
- 6) Matthew 11:28-30
- 7) Philippians 4:6-8
- 8) John 5:30
- 9) Mark 14:35-36
- 10) John 14:8-9
- 11) Psalm 34:18
- 12) James 4:7-10
- 13) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
- 14) 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- 15) Romans 8:37-39
- 16) Hebrews 12:1-2

Scriptures referenced, not quoted: Hebrews 11

NB:bo  
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