**R12 Session # 2**

**Authentic Christ Follower/Leader**

**Pillar 1: Your Relationship with GOD…surrendered to God (12:1)**

Welcome

* Now we will drill down on the five pillars. We will go slow and may not get through each pillar each week. We really want to drill deep.

Centering “Romans 12:1”

* Anyone memorize it? Who wants to give it a shot?

Prayer

Review

* Introductions
  + Question # 1-3…

Four Calls of Christ *by Allen Coppedge*

1. Salvation (John 3:16)
2. Lordship (Romans 10:9; I Peter 3:15)
3. Discipleship (John 17, Matthew 28)
4. Purpose (John 15:7-9)

Surrender: Romans 12:1 (*NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

Lectio Divina Exercise-- what word/image bubbled up for you? Why?

* What emotions are evoked in you?
* How does this connect to your story? Have you ever sacrificed?

There should be some things we are willing to sacrifice…

* The Command (to surrender): “offer your bodies” *This is not about salvation, this is about surrender Lordship”*
* “Offer”…Interesting word. how does it feel to you?

“*God’s power doesn’t kick in until Lordship kicks in” that’s when we start seeing the hand of God.*

* Dig in—where have you seen this in your life?
* Refer to 4 calls.
* The Motivation (to surrender): “The mercy of God” *Chapters 1-11*
* There is a command in this verse…but it feels different…what’s the motivation? …the mercy of God.
* What’ s the difference between MERCY and GRACE
  + Grace—Getting what we don’t deserve
  + Mercy—Not getting what we do deserve (attribute of God)
* The Reason (to surrender): “Spiritual act of Worship”
* **John Piper:** *Worship is what we were created for. This is the final end of all existence-the worship of God. God created the universe so that it would display the worth of His glory. And He created us so that we would see this glory and reflect it by knowing and loving it-with all our heart and soul and mind and strength.*
* What is worship to you?
  + “going” to worship—consumer…what is our part in worship…it is not about what we are consuming, but about what we are producing
  + What is the difference between CONSUMER and PRODUCER
  + Maybe…difference between corporate and personal worship

The Nature of surrender is “All or Nothing”

Definition of surrender: *“Total commitment is the alignment of one’s motives, resources, priorities, and goals to fulfill a specific mission, accomplish a specific task, or follow a specific person.”*

* Surrender doesn’t come natural…what’s the hymn “I surrender ‘some’…”
* We are plagued with conditional surrender. But the nature of surrender is all.
  + Why is that?
  + Does God accept our conditional surrender?
* We are here to support and encourage one another on this path of surrender. How is all this intersecting with your life?
  + Is there anything in your life that the Lord might be challenging you to surrender? Something you are struggling with?

Case Studies

* The Case of Abraham… Genesis 22
* Son…I must surrender “my Isaacs”
* Dissect the story…God didn’t take Isaac, he invied Abraham to offer him.
  + Maybe blessing came—invited me to be obedient (Isaac)
  + Maybe blessing came as a result of my obedience (typical)
* God has called us to surrender our Isaacs.
  + What does that look like in our lives? What has God asked you to surrender? What is your Isaac?
  + Is there anything God has asked you to surrender?
    - That you didn’t surrender? That you need to surrender?
    - Who are good examples today?

Signing the Check…

* Picture your Whole life as a blank check. Imagine signing the bottom and leaving the top blank for whatever the Lord wants to do in my life. I was a Christina for a year until I signed over the heck of my life to His Lordship.
* Surrender is the only channel through which God’s best and biggest blessings can flow. He loves you, He’s for you!
* Our life either brings glory or disgrace to Christ. When we accept Him and don’t obey Him, we misrepresent him to a watching world.

The secret to surrender:

* When I really believe (mentally, emotionally, spiritually) that God has my best in mind, then I will surrender my will (Battle of wills). Everything. Even the bad things he can use for my good and his glory.
* Surrender is declaring that I trust Christ with my life and future.
* Psalm 84:11  *For the* ***Lord God*** *is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”*
* ***Lord*** *“Yahweh” = Covenant name: All personal, powerful, self-existent.*
* ***God*** *“ Adonai” = God of creation and provision. God is an unlimited resource and unlimited protection to those who surrender the Check of their life.*
* ***He gives Grace and Glory****= “He wants what is best for you!’ Satan and the World has lied to us! He wants you to have a rich and deep relationship with our wife. He wants us to thrive and prosper in our careers, He wants your life in the community of faith to be rich and rewarding. God is the CEO of the Universe and his desire is to be number one in your Heart.*
* **No good thing will he with-hold.** To follow Christ even when we don’t feel like it is the path to receive the very best from God.

All in…Texas Hold ‘em

* II Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.
* When we surrender, our life faith is ignited!

Next Week: Begin memorizing 12:2…pray for each other by name.