

Raise The Flag

Part One - The White Flag

- Salvation begins with surrender.

Example - 5th Avenue RCA building, Atlas struggling under the weight of the world
- Across the street is St. Patrick's Cathedral with a statute of Jesus as a child, holding the world in the palm of His hand.

Acts 26:12-18, "On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. 13 About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. 14 We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' " 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the

Lord replied. 16 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. 17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'"

- The call of God to surrender will come in a language you can understand.

vs. 14, We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic...

Note - God speaks your language

Example - The Chinese student with Chi Alpha

Acts 2:5-6, Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.
6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came

together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

Note - God didn't just speak Aramaic to Paul - He spoke through the pavement, through blindness and through a prophet named Ananias.

Example - My horse kicking the heel off of a woman's boot.

Note - When are you going to get the message?

- Surrender requires that we submit, not just to God, but to God's plan.

vs. 16, 16 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.'

Note - Most of us don't have a problem with the idea of God's existence. Our struggle is the idea of a God with a plan.

Example - Jesus' surrender. Praying Jesus prayers.

Luke 22:42, "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Isaiah 55:7-9, Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him and to our God, for he will freely pardon. 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Note - Surrender requires trust.

- When we refuse to surrender, we only hurt ourselves.

vs. 14, 'It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

Note - The 'goad' or the 'prick' was an instrument used to make oxen keep going while plowing a field. They would often kick against it, only making the 'goading' more painful for themselves.

Proverbs 6:27-28, Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? 28 Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?

Example - Unforgiveness

Quote - "Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die."

- Surrender is really about Lordship.

vs. 15, 15 "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'"

Note - You and God can't be Lord at the same time.

Philippians 2:9-11, Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Note - Jesus WILL be Lord, the issue is timing.

- Surrender begins on our knees but ends up on our feet.

vs. 16, 'Now get up and stand on your feet.'

Note - God has an assignment for all who surrender. Ultimately, He doesn't want to knock you down, He wants to raise you up!

1 Peter 5:6, Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

The Result of Surrender

1. We see God in a whole new light.

vs.13, About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions.

Note - We don't see God as we should.

Ephesians 1:18, I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...

Example - The map of the world

2. We come under God's protection.

vs. 17, I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles.

Note - God has the ultimate witness protection program!

Psalms 91:14-16, "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. 15 He will call upon me,

and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

3. Others will surrender to Christ.

vs. 17, 18, ‘I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’”

- Surrender results in transformation.

Acts 9:21, All who heard (Paul) were amazed. “Isn’t this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus’ followers in Jerusalem?” they asked. “And didn’t he come here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?”

Example - The confederate flag of surrender was a common dish towel. Appropriate, as we have quite a mess to clean up!
Zacchaeus story.

Note - Every white flag should be a dish towel
because the transformation of surrender will
always have you clean up the mess that you
made!