Abraham’s Surrender

Intro: The word surrender means to yield to the power of another or to give up possession of something upon demand or compulsion: to relinquish. The song we sing, “All to Jesus I Surrender” expresses the Biblical idea and principles of surrender. The person who thinks that he only has to give a tenth of his material possessions and a seventh of his time to the Lord has never appreciated the words of this song. In this lesson I want us to see some principles of surrender from the life of Abraham, and in what he surrendered.

I. **ABRAHAM SURRENDERED HIS COUNTRY.**
   A. **Gen. 12:1** “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee.”
   1. Heb. 11:8 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”
   2. It was about 1300 miles from his homeland to where he was led by God.
   B. **We must surrender our country.**
      1. Phi. 3:20 “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”
      2. Our citizen life is to be from heaven.
         a. cf. Phi. 1:27 “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”
         b. Not of this world, 1 John 2:15 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”
      3. We are just pilgrims and strangers in this world.
         a. 1 Pet. 2:11 “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”
         b. Man’s life here on this earth is short, but we have an eternity awaiting us: live according to that.

II. **ABRAHAM SURRENDERED HIS KINSHIP**
   A. Abraham’s father left his homeland with Abraham.
      1. Gen. 11:31 “And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son’s son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram’s wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.”
      2. But the surrender was not yet complete. cf. Gen. 12:1
   B. **Mat. 10:35-37** “For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. 37He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”
   C. **It may seem strange but it is true that sometimes a person’s own family is the greatest enemy of his soul.**
      1. 1 Kings 21: (esp. vs. 25 “But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.”)
         a. Jezebel was Ahab’s greatest enemy.
b. If it had not been for Jezebel and her advice, Ahab probably would not have murdered Naboth and had not turned out so rotten.

2. 1 Kings 11:3-4 “And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. 4For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.”
   a. Solomon’s wives were his greatest enemy.
   b. If it had not been for them Solomon would have remained faithful to God but they turned his heart away from Him.
   c. Often a non-Christian husband or wife will have more influence over the Christian than the Christian will have over the non-Christian.

III. Abraham Surrendered His Personal Privilege in the Interest of Peace.

A. Gen. 13:7-11 “And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram’s cattle and the herdmen of Lot’s cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. 8And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. 9Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. 10And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. 11Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.”

1. The herdsmen of Lot and Abraham were having difficulty.
2. God had promised Abraham the land, as a result Abraham could have taken the best land for himself as his personal privilege.
3. In The interest of peace, he allowed Lot to choose the way he would go.

B. Paul practiced this principle.

1. 1 Cor. 9:19-23 “For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. 20And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; 21To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 22To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23And this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.”

2. He did this to save souls.

C. Sometimes, walking in the steps of Abraham involves surrendering our personal rights in the interest of peace within the church.

IV. Abraham Surrendered His Own Wisdom and Judgment.

A. Heb. 11:8 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”

B. It is necessary for us to surrender the wisdom of this world in order to please God (have God’s wisdom.)

1. 1 Cor. 1:18-21, 25-28 “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written, I will
destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 

20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.... 22 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 23 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 24 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 25 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:"

2. The refusal on the part of many to surrender this worldly wisdom is the reason many cannot see God or any need for the Gospel.

C. Other examples.
1. 2 Kings 5:1-14. Naaman was not cured of his leprosy until he discarded his own wisdom and do what God through Elisha said.
2. Num. 21:
   a. The Israelites were murmuring and as a result God sent fiery serpents among them.
   b. God has Moses erect a brazen serpent so that when the people were bitten they could look upon this and not die, but live.
   c. How contrary to the wisdom of man to be healed.
   d. Jesus uses this as an example of man’s need to lay aside human wisdom to appreciate and appropriate His salvation; John 3:14 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:"
   a. To gain the victory at Jericho the Israelites had to march around the city as God commanded.
   b. Human wisdom would tell man to scale the walls, batter the city, etc.

D. We must surrender our own wisdom for the wisdom of God.

V. ABRAHAM SURRENDERED HIS SON.
A. Gen. 22:2 “And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”
   1. Isaac was Abraham’s most prized possession.
   2. Notice: “Thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest.”
B. Notice what different attitudes Abraham had as opposed to the rich young ruler.
   1. Mark 10:21-22 “Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.”
   2. He was unwilling to surrender his possessions.
C. We need to be willing to give up anything for the truth and Jesus Christ.
VI. Abraham Surrendered His Will To God’s Will.
   A. This is seen in the fact that Abraham obeyed God’s will.
      1. Gen. 12:4 “So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.”
      2. Heb. 11:8 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”
   B. Others exhibited this same surrender.
      1. Jesus; Luke 22:42 “Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”
      2. Paul; Acts 9:6 “And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”
   C. John 7:17 “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”

VII. Abraham Surrendered His Affections.
   A. As much as Abraham loved Isaac he loved God more.
      1. Gen. 22:2 “And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”
      2. Abraham rose up early to do God’s bidding; Gen. 22:3 “And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.”
      3. Heb. 11:17 “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,”
   B. The New Testament teaches us that we must do the same.
      1. Mat. 22:37 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”
      2. Mat. 10:37-39 “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.”

VIII. Abraham Surrendered His Doubts
   A. Rom. 4:16-22 “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb: 20He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.” Consider these characteristics of his faith.
      1. “Believed in hope against hope.”
      2. “Not weak in faith.”
3. “Staggered not through unbelief.”
4. “Strong in faith.”
5. “He was fully persuaded.”

**B. We, too, must surrender all doubts. For example.**

1. About the existence of God.
2. That Jesus is God’s Son; John 20:25, 27, 29 “The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe....27Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.... 29Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”
3. The promises of God concerning heaven and hell.

**IX. ABRAHAM SURRENDERED WITHOUT HESITATION.**

**A. Gen. 22:3** “And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.”

1. God had told Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. Abraham arose early in the morning to start on his journey.
2. If their ever was a time to hesitate in obedience to God it seems as if this would be that occasion.
   a. Think of all the excuses Abraham could have offered for delaying in starting his journey.
   b. Think of all the excuses, from the human standpoint, for failing in obedience.

**B. Full Surrenders:**

1. Would have changed the eternal destiny of Felix; Acts 24:25 “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”
2. Would have saved Agrippa; Acts 26:27-28 “King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. 28Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

**C. Procrastination is not only a thief of time, it is also a thief of souls.**

**D. 2 Cor. 6:2** “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”

Conclusion: Have you surrendered all to Jesus? Are you will to surrender all to Him? If you are will to surrender all but you have not yet done so why not do it at this time?