

**STUDY GUIDE WEEK FIVE:  
A LIFE OF DAILY SURRENDER**

**STATEMENT...tonight we ponder a great biblical word “SURRENDER”. At first glance, it strikes us wrong. It smacks of defeat, giving in to an enemy, or passively accepting whatever comes our way. Surrender is a CRUTCH FOR WEAK PEOPLE who can’t cope with life. No! Surrender is the voluntary admission that there is a GOD; it is not ME. If we let SELF RULE, we’ll never find God. The SELF wasn’t meant to be MASTER. Instead of letting God be God, we trade places. At the heart of communion with God is the SURRENDERED HEART. To be with God, we empty ourselves of pride, and any false expectations of what GOD SHOULD DO FOR US. In surrender, I don’t stop living; I start living more in obedience to God, letting Jesus drive us.**

**A BUNDLE OF GOOD INTENTIONS...we are strong-willed people; yielding to God doesn’t come easily to us. We all have GOOD INTENTIONS. We want to SERVE JESUS, but we let other things get in our way. God created world so that the BEST THINGS IN LIFE never happen when WE ARE IN CHARGE. To get our lives back, we must LET GO/LET GOD BE GOD and this should be a daily practice.**

**THE DISCIPLINED LIFE...following Jesus is a DISCIPLINED LIFE. Surrender is not ONE-SHOT DEAL; it is a way of life; it happens every day, every hour of day. We slowly become LESS SELF-CENTERED, and more CHRIST-CENTERED. The biggest obstacle in finding more of God isn’t our busy schedules, but our stubborn refusal to change our ways, and being self-centered. We love having options/multiple choices, the freedom to be whatever we want to be. We must CLOSE A FEW OPTIONS, deny some choices, or we will remain stuck in a cycle of stress.**

**SUPREMACY OF SELF...self-denial isn’t self-hatred. If we hate ourselves, we destroy life; if we DENY SELF, refusing to give it the LAST WORD in all that we say/do, we put SELF in its PROPER PLACE. This is the correct posture to take before a Holy God. By becoming less SELF-CONSCIOUS and LESS SELF-CENTERED, we humble ourselves. Jesus practiced a life of surrender: he drew strength from the prayer life that supported his life. In prayer, he SURRENDER DAILY ISSUES that arose, quieted CONCERNS about his Disciples. He tamped down ANY PERSONAL MOTIVES that crept into him. He surrendered his schedule, his priorities to God’s will. We wake up each day saying “LORD, I SURRENDER MYSELF; THY WILL BE DONE”**