

## I Surrender

How often do we rely on our own strength and gifts and ironically not on Him who gave us those qualities? I would submit to you that we do this more often than we are aware of.

During my second semester of first year, there was a time where I thought I was going to fail a course. Never before had I been in such a dire situation. As leader of that project, I poured all my effort and intelligence into the problem only to get little success. The stress and fear continued to grow and finally, my heart gave out, and I lifted it all to God. It was in this moment, for the first time, that I understood what it meant to surrender everything - my success, my abilities, my pride and my failures - before the feet of Jesus.

In times of trouble, a common response that we give is to face the problem head on with all our might. But this often leads to the situation becoming worse. The more we stare at the problem, the more we get lost and the more we fall into despair. What are we supposed to do?

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” - Matthew 6:33 (ESV)*

We are called to do something unintuitive - to turn our face to God. As we go through life, we will always encounter new situations and problems that we will be powerless before. But we are also cared for by a sympathetic High Priest who knows and loves us in our struggles.

*“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”  
- Phil 3:7,8 (ESV)*

What is our response to this beautiful and amazing love? Cast aside everything and seek to know Him with all our soul and might for there is nothing to be lost in His arms. From the account of Abraham to the proclamations of the Psalms and to the letters of Paul, the entire Word sings this promise: In our weakness are we made strong because we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

For centuries, society has pushed for men to never yield, always stand tall and continuously press forward. I believe that many of us have fallen for this trap - I know I certainly have. But this is not the example we are given. King David, one of the greatest military figures in Israel's history, poured out his spirit and bowed towards God. My hope as Men's DL is to create a space where us guys can let go of everything to chase after the heart of God and embrace the surpassing worth of Christ.

How can we do this? It starts small. It starts with intertwining a desire for God in our lives. It can start with simply asking “how have you seen God in your week”, “what have you been

reading this week”, “how can I pray for you” to challenging each other in our walks and struggles. The core element is making ourselves available to God and from there, I trust that He is faithful to mold us into something greater.

This is my vision for the fellowship: to surrender all we have to seek and know Him more with each passing day. Let us take “surrendering to God” as an anthem for our lives because it is only then can we find true peace and security.