

THE UNWAVERING MAN

Portraits of Surrendered Men

Philippians 2:16-30 | **Participant Guide** (September 6th, 2026)

Key Idea

The unwavering person is the surrendered person - someone who has entrusted their life, their will, and their future to Jesus. Because what they fear losing has already been placed in God's hands, they can remain faithful whatever the cost.

Key Scripture

"But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you." - Philippians 2:17 (NIV)

Opening Conversation

1. When you hear the word 'unwavering,' who comes to mind, and what quality makes that person steady?

Read Together - Philippians 2:16-30

Listen for the cost each man accepted and the way his life reflected the mindset of Jesus.

1. Paul Surrendered Himself - The Sacrificial Man Pours Himself Out

"Surrendering yourself is more than surrendering what you have; it is surrendering your very life - saying, 'Jesus, I belong to You.'"

2. Paul describes himself as being 'poured out like a drink offering.' What does that image communicate about the way he viewed his life and ministry?
3. What is the difference between giving Jesus something you have and saying, 'Jesus, I belong to You'?
4. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-7. What does this later use of the same 'poured out' imagery reveal about Paul's long-term faithfulness?

2. Timothy Surrendered His Will - The Selfless Man Puts Others First

"The selfless person does not ask only what they want; they ask what Jesus wants and what others need."

5. Philippians 2:20-21 contrasts Timothy's genuine concern with people who seek their own interests. What made Timothy's service unusual?
6. How does Timothy embody the command of Philippians 2:3-5 to value others above ourselves and adopt the mindset of Christ?
7. The selfless person asks, 'What does Jesus want, and what do others need?' Where could that question reshape one of your choices or relationships this week?

Transition - Placing Your Future on the Altar

Read Genesis 22:1-3 and 9-14. Isaac represented Abraham's promised future. Abraham surrendered his control over how God would fulfill His promise.

8. In Genesis 22, Isaac represented Abraham's promised future. What did Abraham's willingness to place Isaac on the altar reveal about his trust in God?

3. Epaphroditus Surrendered His Future - The Courageous Man Risks It All

"The courageous person surrenders the outcome."

9. Philippians 2:30 says Epaphroditus 'risked his life' for the work of Christ. What is the difference between biblical courage and recklessness?

10. How do Daniel 3:17-18 and Esther 4:16 illustrate the statement, 'The courageous person surrenders the outcome'?

11. Why can a person become more unwavering after placing the outcome in God's hands?

Personal Application - My Life. My Will. My Future.

12. Which area is Jesus inviting you to surrender more fully: yourself, your will, or your future? What would one concrete step of surrender look like this week?

Prayer

Jesus, my life is Yours. My will is Yours. My future is Yours. Form Your sacrificial love, selflessness, and courage in me.

Prepare for Next Week

Read Ahead

Philippians 3:1-14. As you read, notice what Paul once counted as gain, what he now considers loss compared with knowing Christ, and how he presses on toward the goal. Mark one verse, phrase, or question to bring back next week.