

The Surrender Prayer

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"
—Lk 9:23–25

Biblical examples of a surrender prayer

The Old Testament

Hannah

"O Lord of hosts... if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant... but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life..."
1 Samuel 1:11

Isaiah

"Here am I! Send me."
Isaiah 6:8

Job

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted... Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know... therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."
Job 42:2, 3b, 6

The Psalms

Psalm 31:5

"Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God."

Psalm 51:10-12

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me."

Psalm 139:23-24

"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"

The New Testament

Mary

"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."
Luke 1:38

The Lord's Prayer

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
Matthew 6:10

Jesus in Gethsemane

"Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."
Mark 14:36

Jesus on the Cross

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"
Luke 23:46

Stephen

"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit... Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
Acts 7:59-60

Historical Examples of a surrender prayer

CLOTHE ME WITH YOURSELF

"You are my ultimate good. To You I entrust whatever I have received from You. Strip me of myself, and clothe me with Yourself. Take away from me all that is mine, and give me that which is Yours, for without You I am nothing, but in You I have all things."

—*St. Augustine of Hippo (354–430)*

THE LORICA

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

—*St. Patrick of Ireland (c. 385–461)*

THE SUSCIPE

"Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All that I have and possess. Thou hast given all to me. To Thee, O Lord, I return it. All is Thine, dispose of it wholly according to Thy will. Give me Thy love and Thy grace, for this is sufficient for me.

—*Ignatius of Loyola*

THE PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT

"Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures— I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul: I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father."

—*St. Charles de Foucauld (1858–1916)*

I GIVE YOU MYSELF

Spirit of the Most High, the Comforter and Sanctifier of your chosen, come now with all your glory, all your courtly attendants, your fruits and graces.

Let me be the place you live. I give you what is yours already. Here, with the poor widow, I cast my two pennies—my soul and my body—into your treasury. I fully resign them to you, to be sanctified by you, to be your servants.

....

I know my flesh will hang back. But in the power of your grace, I resolve to cleave to you and your holy ways—whatever the cost.

With you I am sure I will never lose. So I will be content with disapproval, difficulties, and hardships. I will deny myself, take up my cross, and follow you.

Lord Jesus, your yoke is easy and your cross is welcome, since it is the way to you. I lay aside all hopes of worldly happiness. I will be content to wait, and come to you. Let me be poor and low, little and despised here—so I may live and reign with you hereafter.

Lord, you have my heart in this agreement, never to be reversed. By grace I will stand in this resolution, where I will live and die. I have sworn that I will keep your righteous judgments. I have freely made my everlasting choice.

Lord Jesus, confirm the contract. Amen.

—Joseph Alleine

Joseph Alleine, "I Give You Myself," in Piercing Heaven: Prayers of the Puritans, ed. Robert Elmer (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019), 152–153.

Your Will Be Done

Now speak, Lord, and I will hear. Now call, Lord, and I will answer. Now command me, impose on me what you will, and I will submit.

None but the Lord, none but Christ, no other lord nor lover. I am yours, Lord, your own. Do with your own, demand of your own, whatever you please.

What will you have me be, Lord, what will you have me do? That is what I will do and be.

No longer what I will, but your will be done. Amen.

—Richard Alleine

Richard Alleine, "Your Will Be Done," in Piercing Heaven: Prayers of the Puritans, ed. Robert Elmer (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019), 151.

MY AMEN TO YOUR AMEN

Lord! Lay whatever burden you will upon me, only let your everlasting arms be under me. Strike, Lord, and do not spare me. I lay down in your will. I have learned to say amen to your amen.

You have a greater interest in me than I have in myself, and therefore I give myself up to you. I am willing to be at your disposal, and am ready to receive whatever impression you want to stamp upon me.

Blessed Lord, again and again you have said to me, as once the king of Israel said to the king of Syria, "I am yours, and all that I have" (1 Kings 20:4).

I am yours!

Your mercy is mine to pardon me.

Your blood is mine to cleanse me.

Your merits are mine to justify me.

Your righteousness is mine to clothe me.

Your Spirit is mine to lead me.

Your grace is mine to enrich me.

And your glory is mine to reward me.

Therefore my soul cannot help but resign myself to you.

Lord! Here I am; do with me as seems good in your own eyes.

I know the best way to have my own will is to resign myself to your will, and to say amen to your amen.

—Thomas Brooks