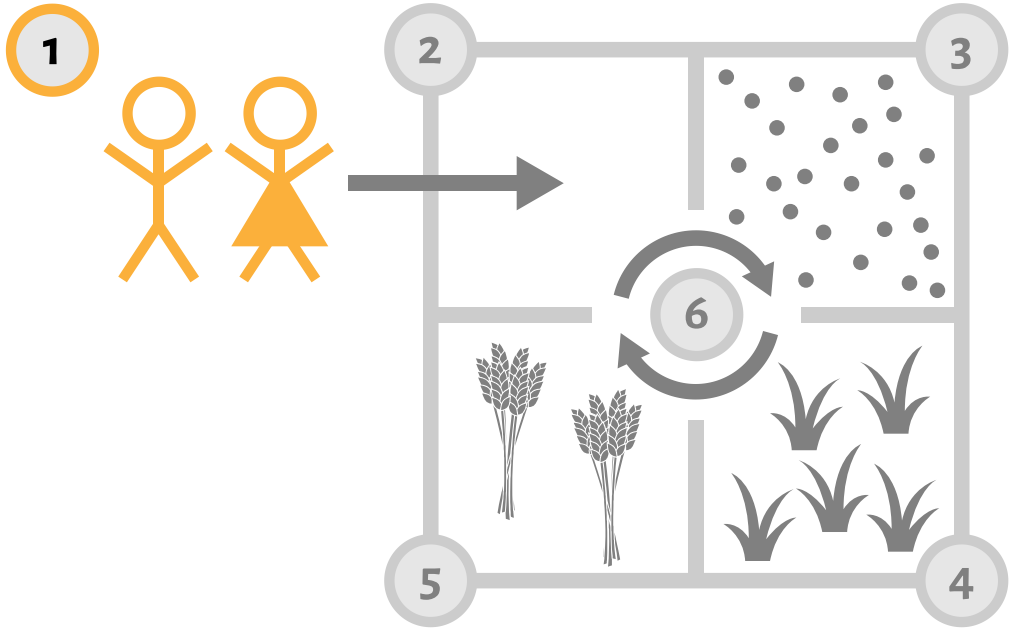


SURRENDERING TO GOD



The kingdom of God is the reign of God as king. In the kingdom of God, his people submit to his will and his word. To see God's kingdom grow, we must continually walk in absolute surrender to God.

Surrendering to God includes being continually filled with the Spirit and submitting to his will.

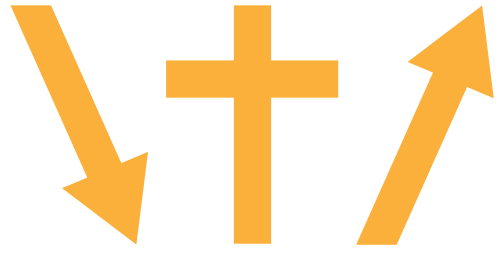


Ephesians 5:17-21:

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

God’s chosen people are saved by his grace and granted a new life. In this new life, we are to be filled continually with the Spirit and to understand what the will of the Lord is. The filling with the Spirit mentioned in these verses is not a single event but an ongoing pattern of life. (The command to “be filled” is a present imperative in the Greek.) As we are filled with the Spirit, we put off our old way of life and put on a new life of love, fully surrendered to the will of God.

Surrendering to God includes holding fast to his word.



1 Corinthians 15:1-11:

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I

worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

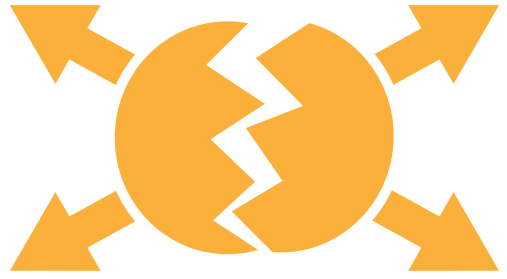
The people of God are to hold fast to the gospel by which we are being saved. The gospel is not something that is only relevant at the first moment of faith. The gospel is required for all our salvation! Therefore, we must hold fast to the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, was raised, and is forever alive. If we are fully surrendered to God, every part of our life will be controlled by the reality of the gospel.

How can we surrender to God?

Surrender to God is not giving him permission to rule only some fraction of our life. Surrender to God is inviting God to have complete authority over all of our life at all times. We must surrender all to him, holding nothing back. What follows is a helpful pattern for a disciple to continually surrender to God.



Recognize brokenness in your life. Brokenness exists where things are not as they should be. Fully acknowledge brokenness that hurts you physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. Acknowledge brokenness in you that is your own sin to confess to God.



Remember, apply, and preach the gospel over your brokenness. The presence of Jesus has never left you. Jesus understands. Jesus lived perfectly for you. Jesus died to pay for and heal all your brokenness. Jesus rose to free you. The presence of Jesus will never leave you.

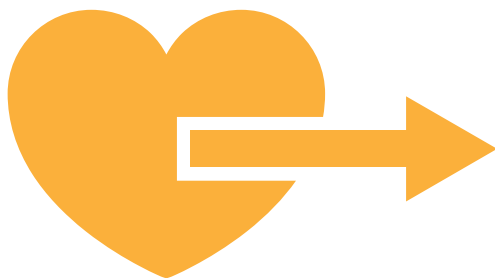


Surrender the brokenness to God. Tell God as genuinely as you can that you surrender this brokenness to him.



Put your brokenness at the feet of Jesus. Trust God to make things right.

Invite God to rule over every part your life. In light of the gospel, put off what is not of God and put on holiness and wholeness. Trust God's will and his word. Be filled with the Spirit and walk in obedience to God.



We can use this pattern to hold fast to the gospel of Jesus, walk by the Spirit, and fully surrender to God. As we grow in complete surrender to God, we will see the kingdom of God grow.

For Kingdom Growth

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Many thanks to all who have contributed to this material for kingdom growth. Your service in the Lord is never in vain.