

Presented by Sis. Jessica Tolbert

LEARNING TO SURRENDER YOUR LIFE & TRUST GOD



There's nothing too hard for God.

I am a daughter of the King.
God sees me!

He has great plans for me!

I will strive to live as a
Christian should.

I will inspire and encourage
my sisters to do the same.

DEFINITION OF TRUST

- To **trust** means to have firm confidence, reliance, or faith in the honesty, reliability, or truth of someone or something.
- **It's two-part:**
 - It's having confidence in and **believing** that God can and will do what He says He will do.
 - It's action. **Showing** God that you believe and have confidence in what He can and will do.
- Trust and having faith can be interchangeable.
- Think of something valuable in your life (ex. Secrets, your heart, children, money, etc). Now think of someone you trust to keep such things without your constant supervision.
- **James 2:14-26 (NLT):** What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GOD THAT WE TRUST HIM?

- He wants us to completely depend on Him. It's our way of showing that we truly love Him. ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#))
- Trust is the foundation of any relationship. Without it, we cannot have a relationship with God. ([Hebrews 11:6](#))
- True love and trust is choosing God (free-will) regardless of suffering and sacrifice. It's without force, coercion, and fear. ([John 14:15](#); [Mt. 22:37-38](#); [1 John 4:18](#); [1 Cor. 13:4-7](#); [Deut.11:22](#))
- True love is while we were yet sinners (while we reject God daily by denying Him of the things He asked of us), He still sent Christ to die for us so that we may have a relationship with Him. ([1 John 4:9-10](#)).



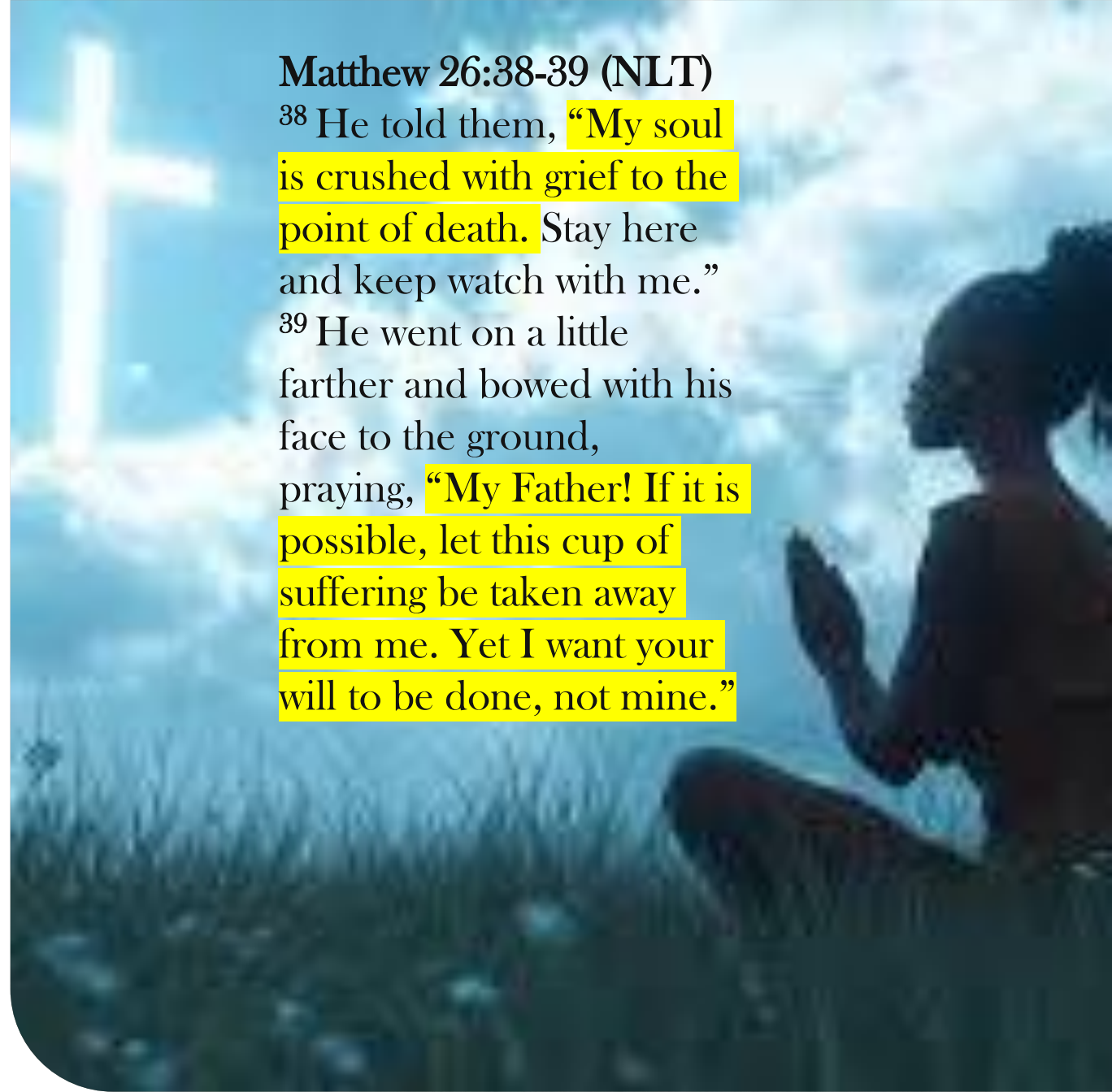
IS GOD WORTH THE SACRIFICE OF YOUR LIFE?

- Is He worth giving up your wants, needs, and expectations for His will?
- The decision is not easy. No one wants to suffer and sacrifice.
- Even Jesus grieved before going to the cross. Your sufferings are not to be undermined. (Matthew 26:38-39)
- But are you willing to endure in order for God's Greater Purpose to be fulfilled?

Matthew 26:38-39 (NLT)

³⁸ He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

³⁹ He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."



COUNT THE COST...

1. “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. But don’t begin until you count the cost...You cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.” (Luke 14:28-33).
2. It’s tough, but remember we are the created, not the Creator, and the created does not get to dictate what to do with its own life. It is not unfair to us. We didn’t create ourselves. It’s unfair to the Creator who created us for His purpose. (Isaiah 64:8; Colossians 1:16; Proverbs 16:4)

My Yoke Is Easy



TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND
LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM GENTLE
AND LOWLY IN HEART, AND YOU
WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.
FOR MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY
BURDEN IS LIGHT.

MATTHEW 11:29-30

If the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41), then God is longsuffering & is willing to help us.

- This is why God sent Jesus in human form to earth so that He could understand our struggles. ([Hebrews 4:14-16](#))
- This is why God has given us a Helper (the Holy Spirit) to help us when we are weak. ([Romans 8:26-27](#))
- This is why God is longsuffering and patient with us. ([2 Peter 3:9](#))

OUR BARRIERS TO TRUSTING GOD & SURRENDERING OUR ENTIRE LIVES TO HIM



1. Impatience/Growing weary during the wait.
2. The desire to control our own lives.
3. Lack of faith/doubt/worry/fear/anxiety.
4. Unanswered prayers/Not hearing God speak when we seek Him/Not seeing God show up during the toughest times in our lives/Not receiving our hearts desires & Fear of the unknown/nervous to face hardships.
5. Moved and governed by what we see/comparing our lives to others.
6. Fear of disappointment.
7. Angry or disappointed with God.
8. Forgetting what God has already done in our lives/Not spending enough time with God/Stuck on what has happened in the past/Struggling to understand why God allows bad things to happen/There is a lot against us at once.

DO NOT LET SATAN DECEIVE YOU & DO NOT DECEIVE YOURSELF.

- There are only two paths in life to choose from: God's way or satan's way. ([Romans 6:16](#))
 - Choosing to live life solely for self (without God) is considered idolatry. You become a false god to yourself, because you're choosing a pathway outside of the way of The Only True God. ([James 3:15-18](#))
- Both paths involve suffering, trials, and tribulations.
 - The difference is...
 - One way (God's way) involves temporary suffering on earth, guaranteed help to overcome, and it reaps blessings, rewards, joy, and peace on earth and in the afterlife. ([2 Cor.4:7-12,17-18](#))
 - The other way (satan's pathway) involves suffering on earth and in eternity. It reaps destruction, chaos, sadness, everything bad, and it fails to reap any good fruit. ([Galatians 6:7-8](#))

John 8:44 (NLT)

For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for **he is a liar and the father of lies.**

Proverbs 1:30-33 (NLT)

They rejected my advice

and paid no attention when I corrected them.

³¹ Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes.

³² For simpletons turn away from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.

³³ But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm."

SEEK GOD FOR UNDERSTANDING & WISDOM ON YOUR SITUATION.

- Seek understanding on why you are going through what you are going through. It can change your perspective and thus increase your faith. Ask for discernment.
- Seek wisdom on how to overcome your situation.
- God promises to give you wisdom and understanding, but He doesn't always tell you how and when.
- Possible reasons for seemingly delayed answers:
 - God wants to spend more time with you.
 - God gives you information when you are spiritually mature enough to handle it. (John 16:12; 1 Cor. 3:1-2)
 - He reveals things in His perfect timing. (Habakkuk 2:1-3; Ecc.3:1)
 - God is answering, but we aren't perceiving His answers. (John 10:3-10)
 - Do you know how God speaks to you?
 - Do you know His voice?
 - Are you spending enough time with Him?
 - Are you too distracted?

Proverbs 2:2-11

Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God. For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy. Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe.

1 Corinthians 1:24-25

²⁴ But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles,^[a] Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

EXAMINE YOURSELVES!

Lamentations 3:38-42 (NLT)

- Does not the Most High
send both calamity and good?

³⁹ Then why should we, mere humans, complain
when we are punished for our sins?

- ⁴⁰ Instead, let us test and examine our ways.

Let us turn back to the LORD.

⁴¹ Let us lift our hearts and hands
to God in heaven and say,

⁴² “We have sinned and rebelled,
and you have not forgiven us.

- Are we the cause of our own suffering and “delays” in God delivering His promises to us because of our own disobedience against God?
- God will not give you something if you are not spiritually ready to receive and maintain it. ([Luke 12:47-48](#))
- God will not remove the “thorn in your side” if you have not learned what He is trying to teach you. ([Hebrews 5:8](#); [Psalms 119:71](#))
- Some of the sins in our past take time to recover from ([Joel 2:18-28](#)).
- For some, God has given us the answer on how to obtain what we are seeking, but we refuse to obey. ([Jeremiah 6:10-12](#); [Zechariah 7:11-14](#); [Nehemiah 9:26-37](#))

ARE YOU USING YOUR SPIRITUAL WEAPONS TO FIGHT?

Use them all day & every day for the rest of your life.

- We are in spiritual warfare, and we will continue to be in a spiritual war until we either physically die or until Jesus returns. ([Eph.6:10-12](#); [1Pt. 5:8-9](#))
 - **Keep fighting! Your connection to God is on the line!** ([2 Cor. 11:3](#))
- Spend time with God every day and all day (when able).
 - Spend quality time with God. No distractions. Be persistent. ([Mark 1:35](#))
 - Find ways to consume the Word of God (ie. *Prayer, *studying the Bible, listening to worship music; watching, discernible, Christian-based content, etc.)
 - If you are struggling to find quality time, seek God for strength and wisdom and start removing unnecessary things from your schedule. Sacrifice! ([Luke 10:38-42](#))
- The effects of spending quality time and an abundant amount of time with God:
 - It renews your strength and refreshes your spirit every day. It helps you to persevere and endure. ([Psalms 119:28](#); [Isaiah 40:27-31](#))
 - It strengthens and increases your faith. ([Romans 10:17](#))
 - It transforms your mind, removing the focus from self and onto God's desires, purposes, and will. ([Romans 12:2](#))
 - You gain wisdom and understanding. You become spiritually mature. ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#))
 - You learn who God is. You learn to trust Him. You build an intimate relationship with Him. ([Jeremiah 29:12-13](#))
 - You remember His promises, faithfulness, truths, and power.

¹⁴ The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. ¹⁵ And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

LUKE 8:14-15 (NLT)

THE CARES OF THIS LIFE ARE KEEPING US FROM GROWING IN GOD.

ARE YOU USING YOUR SPIRITUAL WEAPONS TO FIGHT?

Use them all day & every day for the rest of your life.

- When you are weak, call on the Holy Spirit to help you. ([Romans 8:27-28](#))
- Guard your heart and mind. Protect your eyes and ears from the things that are hindering your faith and instead, replace these things with the word of God. ([Proverbs 4:23-27](#))
 - Get off social media. Don't watch certain shows or movies. Don't listen to certain music.
 - Put boundaries up and stay away from people who are discouraging you.
 - Take drastic measures to stay away from sin (to lose faith). ([Mt.5:30](#))
 - Do what you can, within your control to protect God's words within your heart and mind.
- When you are unable to escape the world, ask the Holy Spirit, every morning, to guard and protect your heart and mind.

Proverbs 4:23-27 (NLT)

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

Philippians 4:6-9 (NLT)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

REMEMBER THESE THINGS...

- Some things take time. God is The God of sustainability and eternity. ([Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11-14](#))
 - God gives extraordinarily amazing gifts. ([Matthew 7:11](#); [1 Corinthians 2:9](#))
- It's all about God's perfect timing. ([Isaiah 55:8-11](#))
- God will fulfill the desires of our heart, as we delight in Him and in accordance to His will. The desires were not created to serve us. They were placed in our hearts so that we would use them to bring glory to God. We are only vessels who have been asked to steward our portions, appropriately. ([Psalms 37:3-11](#))
 - God doesn't necessarily tell you how or when the desire will be fulfilled.
 - Who or what is shaping your expectations?
- God loves you more than anything. He has not forgotten you. ([Psalms 56:8](#))
- Suffering occurs on earth because of free-will and sin. Life on this earth is temporary. We are only here for a moment to fulfill a purpose.
 - Expect suffering, trials and tribulations while here on earth. ([John 16:33](#))
- Despite what happens on the way there, all things work together for good. God will not allow the righteous to fall. God made a promise to you. He didn't promise that the journey there would be pretty. He is always fighting evil on your behalf until the day comes when evil is destroyed forever. ([Psalms 55:22](#); [Romans 8:28](#))
- Sometimes, you just have to jump and have faith, despite how you feel. ([Matthew 14:28-32](#))
- Unharden your heart so that God can heal you and minister to you. ([Matthew 13:15](#))
- Satan has given you the spirit of fear, not God. ([2 Timothy 1:7](#))

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO TRUST GOD?



Jeremiah 17:5-8

- This is what the LORD says:
“Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans,
who rely on human strength
and turn their hearts away from the LORD.
⁶They are like stunted shrubs in the desert,
with no hope for the future.
They will live in the barren wilderness,
in an uninhabited salty land.
- ⁷“But blessed are those who trust in the LORD
and have made the LORD their hope and
confidence.
⁸They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.
Such trees are not bothered by the heat
or worried by long months of drought.
Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit.

THEY WILL SURVIVE AND LIVE!



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

If you would like a copy of the presentation, email me at Jessica.Tolbert.89@gmail.com