



PODCAST

3 Daily Devotions

SURRENDER THE JOURNEY



Where Performance Comes In

MESSAGE :

This worry can come up a lot. The worry of "I am not doing enough; I am surely a disappointment to you. What do I do with this life you have given me?" And the first thing that needs to be addressed is how you feel about me. Why do you worry about not doing enough? What is there for you to do other than listen for my voice and respond? Yes, it is the "response" that you are concerned about. But let's put that away for right now. Rather, we must start here: the alignment of your heart with mine. This is how you are made to live. You are made to listen for my voice. And this voice can sound so different, depending on the circumstances, can't it?

When you know me, and you look for me . . . when you expect me to communicate with you, it helps your heart to receive me. Do you want freedom? Freedom from these expectations that are not your own? Expectations of this world, pressure to perform that is in accordance with a false belief in what is good, in what is worthwhile, in what is for you?

Do you?

Then do this: son, daughter, run now. Run hard into the place where I am. I am here, asking you to ask me this: "Will You come and show me what it is that I believe about You? Will You come and help me see what gets in the way of me believing You are good, that You love me right now, no matter how I respond? That you do not love me less based upon my performance?"

Know that I have a dream for you and I do not let it go. There is a restlessness in your heart when you feel there is something I have for you but you are not doing it yet. That may be what causes your discomfort, what makes you wonder if you are a disappointment. But we must separate the *doing* from the *being*. Who you are is not what you *do*. What you are able to do—and the freedom that comes from doing what I ask you to do, in alignment with me, develops you in your maturity. It grows you. Your soul recognizes my voice. I breathed spirit in you, and your soul recognizes its maker. So, let us begin there.

And the performance part—the time when you get to stand before me, face to face, and I ask you what you did with what I gave you? You can be at peace about that, knowing that your life will be lived beautifully, perfectly, when you receive me. You can't help, then, to respond.



EXERCISE :

How do you get free of the exhausting drive to perform and achieve, free of those urges, deep within, to earn worth and acceptance by chasing worldly success?

Do you want to get free?

How do you entrust your worth and your heart to Jesus, instead of to this culture we live in?

Is that even possible?

Is it possible to surrender all external, cultural measures of our worth, and to surrender all worldly outcomes, *all* outcomes, to Him? To our King, the one who loves us most?

Is it possible to live in freedom?

It *is* possible. It is attainable. In fact, that's what you're *made* for.

And it all starts when we simply say yes. Again and again and again.

Yes to a greater measure of Jesus in our life.

Yes to more of His truth and goodness, to more of his light and presence.

Yes to letting him minister to our hearts, to His help in uncovering the wounds and the agreements that drive to do things we don't want to do, things we were never meant to do.

Yes to healing.

Yes to letting Him guide us, to showing us His Way.

Yes to apprenticing, to teaching us more of who we are, truly, uniquely.

Yes to letting him separate our *doing* from our *being*.

So, let's say yes now.

A Different Kind of Rescue—and the Cost

MESSAGE :

Sometimes it's in the night where you struggle to find me. Other times it's in the morning, when you rise and don't know how you will get through the day. What you need to know is that I will never not rescue you—from your circumstances, your struggles, your fears. But this is important for you to know: this rescue isn't always what you think it is going to look like. Rescue, saving you, is what I have already done, you see.

I have already rescued you from yourself. I have already rescued you from your sin. My Son was the cost. There is no other debt to pay—the debt of rescue, the debt of failure, of falling, of pride, of disbelief—that He did not take care of with His death. With the death of my Son, your sin was washed clean. So you are clean, my son, my daughter. I do not see your sin any longer. Jesus took it all upon himself. It is done. It is done. Can this be what is defined as rescue?

But in these particular circumstances you now face, you ask for a different kind of rescue. In this struggle, this fear, you ask for me to come, you ask where I am, you ask how I can help. For you don't know how. You don't know how.

So, let's start with me asking how you want rescue to look? How do you envision it? How do you want everything to be fixed? How would you like the problem to go away? I know you have an idea, a dream. Now surrender that, son. Surrender that, daughter.

Consider the hope you have, the outcome you are holding onto, and give it to me. Let your pleas be a surrender. Let your prayers be a listening to my voice after you have shared with me your deepest fears. For I do not leave you. And with me there is always hope, always joy, always a way to persevere in the face of darkness.

There is no fear where I am. Stay close. Surrender every fear, every worry.
Give me the outcomes, and then listen.

Listen.

Now, in the surrender, you are ready for that different kind of rescue to begin.
Again, it will not be what you think.



EXERCISE :

God's plans are bigger and better than anything we could ever devise. So, how do we begin to look for, and allow for, His rescue, rather than to attempt our own?

Are you done yet plotting on your own? Trying to figure out life, all by yourself?

How do we begin to trust that our Savior *is* our Savior--in all ways, in all circumstances.

How do we begin to trust that God's good plans are indeed good, and that they are indeed sufficient? How do we begin to trust that He even *has* good plans for us, plans drawn specifically for each one of us?

Ask God to help you clear away all your expectations. Ask Him to help you to trust in *His* presence, *his* sufficiency now.

Ask Him to show you His overwhelming goodness and outrageous love . . . *for you, personally.*

Ask Him to help you trust *His* plans, instead of your own.

Ask Him to help you trust the massive things He is *already* doing in your life, whether you can see them or not..

Ask Him to help you see His rescue--which is long underway.

And then just be watchful and curious over the next few hours, days, weeks, and months.

He *will* show you what He's doing in your life.

Not Okay

MESSAGE :

You can yell at me if you want, shout loud your pain, let the tears rain down. Yes, I can take it. You can ball your fists, press your nails into your weary palms and pound them against my chest. You don't have to try to pretend you are okay, with me. I know you feel like you're not. I know you feel the opposite of okay.

It has been a long time, you think, of feeling like this life of yours is overwhelming. You are wondering how to get through this day, this hour, let alone tomorrow. You have no idea how to do it. You can hardly think. You are shutting down. You don't *want* to feel. It all feels too much. But, listen . . . I have made you to feel. Feel anger at injustice. Feel sadness with disappointment. Feel energized by a challenge. Feel reticent when insecure. And this is okay. You, in the middle of all this, are okay.

Pay attention to what I am doing in your heart—with your emotions, your thoughts. Ask me to help you decipher them. Ask me to show you why you feel the way you feel. But these emotions? *Feel* them. And show them to me. The open-hearted surrender of your emotions to me will help you see me in the storm, in the madness you feel when emotion is all you know and nothing else makes any sense.

Will you let me inside?

Son, daughter, raise your head. Look at my face. My eyes are on you. My arms are around you. With each tear you shed, I cry too. With each wave of anger, I hold you. You are not shattered into a million broken pieces that can never be fixed. You are not weak and powerless. You are not trapped. You are not a hopeless case with no way out. I am steadfast, and you are mine. I know your pain, and I help you endure it. I pour into you strength and faith and resilience to withstand storms, any storm.

You don't have to be okay. You don't have to be strong. You don't have to have the answers. You don't have to have this all figured out, hold the key to the puzzle of your life. Peace comes with surrender and with faith, a knowing that you can rage and despair and struggle and question, and I will stand by you. And eventually, I will help you see your situation more clearly. But pretending you don't need me is not what will bring you peace.

Surrender. Let me in. Let's make this okay.



EXERCISE:

When we are overwhelmed, stressed out, maxed out, distraught . . . When we're brokenhearted, furious, depressed, or just done . . . it's hard to be okay with letting ourselves feel, feel all the emotions of the moment. We'd much rather they just stop. We'd rather shut them down, toughen up, fix ourselves, regain control.

But God made us, He knows us . . . and He made those emotions too. He built us to feel them. He wired us so that we can feel them. So that they can work in us, work through us.

So, could it be that feeling them, and letting them work, is exactly what we need to do? Could it be that those emotions are good for us? Are healthy?

I get it, we want to fix what's broken. We feel shame about what's broken, and so we feel a responsibility to fix this stuff ourselves. But here's the thing—we can't mend what's shattered, not by ourselves. We can't repair our broken lives and broken relationships and broken hearts . . . on our own.

We need God.

And we need to let Him work the way He wants to work. In His way. With His timing.

Maybe that's not what you want to hear right now. Maybe that seems weak or futile.

It's not. It's neither.

It's actually how we tap into the most powerful force in the universe, and how we let that force work in our lives, work in our hearts, deal with our pain, our disappointment, our fears, how we let it deal with our circumstances.

Your Father knows your pain. He knows, and He is good. He runs to you in the middle of the storm and stands. He stands with you and does not stumble or struggle. He stands with you, and He will not leave.

Let's let Him touch the tender places in your heart—the rage, the sadness; the frustration, the confusion.

Let Him come to you, stand next to you, and put his arm on your shoulder. Let His strength become your strength. Lean in—a son or a daughter leaning into a strong, good, perfect Father. Notice how He takes the burden you've been carrying. Let Him take it.

And let the emotions come. Let them come to the surface. Don't push them down or away.

Let go.

There's nothing else to do.

Nowhere else to be.

You are loved.

You are His beloved son. You are His beloved daughter.

You are so okay.

Everything is okay.

Everything is going to be okay.



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