

TOTAL SURRENDER

Today marks the halfway point of our journey in *Believe*. This might very well be the most difficult belief of all so far; maybe of all 30. Today we are talking about *surrender!* We don't much like to surrender. We just weren't raised that way. We don't like the idea of giving up... or surrendering. To make matters more intense... we're talking about **TOTAL SURRENDER!** THAT is what God demands of us if we are to be His followers! (Matthew 16:24)

Total Surrender; that's at least counter our culture if not counter intuitive to our lives. And yet, in a committed relationship (like marriage) isn't that what we really want, too? Marriage, even if it lasts the rest of your life, is still temporary. What type of commitment should be involved in a relationship that is eternal?

A couple of things TOTAL SURRENDER IS NOT...

1. **not just** _____ **or** _____.
2. **not** _____ . Luke 9:57-58; Luke 14:26-27; 33
3. **not DELAYED** _____. Luke 9:57-62

So what does it mean to be a totally surrendered Jesus disciple?

1. It means Jesus _____ ... and we _____ Him.
2. It means we _____ for God's _____.
3. It means we let go of the _____ and move on to the _____.
4. It means we trust in God's _____.

That's the KEY IDEA... *I dedicate my life to God's purposes.*

To be TOTALLY SURRENDERED to God then, is to *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength... and your neighbor as yourself!*

WHAT I WILL DO WITH THIS MESSAGE: _____

Matthew 16:24 (NLT)

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me."

Luke 9:57-62 (NLT)

57 As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58 But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

59 He said to another person, "Come, follow me."

The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."

60 But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God."

61 Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family."

62 But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

Luke 14:26-33 (NLT)

26 "If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—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.

28 "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? 29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. 30 They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'

31 "Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? 32 And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. 33 So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own."