

This week as we do that “reasonable’ thing of presenting ourselves to God in the 8640 seconds of each day, I am using some of those seconds by reading a book concerning the need for trusting and yielding to God.....and this is where I started reading this morning..... here are a few paragraphs written in blue from my book.....

“Our ambivalence about surrender to God is based on the illusionary security of the Kingdom of Self in relation to the apparent risk of the Kingdom of God. God terrifies humans. In the words of Louis Evely, "He [God] is self-denial. He is entirely directed toward another. He knows no rest, no satisfaction, no withdrawal within Himself." We, on the other hand, have a deeply ingrained tendency to rely on ourselves..... we want love without sacrifice, love - without the risk and love without the expense of the surrender of self-control and self-determination.

God cannot accept such a bargain

Finding our self by first losing ourselves simply seems too risky for most of usso, we want to make a bargain with God. **Surely any reasonable god would recognize that ‘something is better than nothing’ and he would allow us to play our game of trying to do our own will while fitting as much as possible of God's will in with it It seems like such a reasonable first step toward complete surrender. [[HA!]]**

But our game is fatal. For while pretending to put ourselves in a place where we can be transformed by Love [God] - we actually remained in love only with our autonomous and willful self.. .

The Kingdom of self is ultimately the Kingdom of death.

We have believed the lie of the serpent. We have believed that freedom comes from the exercise of our autonomy. But true autonomy lies in the choice to give ourselves to others in love. It lies in the absolute surrender of ourselves to God and the Kingdom of love.

The paradoxical law of God's kingdom is that it is only when we give up what we clutch most desperately - that we will receive it. Grasping destroys. Surrender restores and transforms.

Don't fool yourself about how difficult surrender to God is. Preferring God's will to our own **really is difficult.**

The writer, David, went on to explain a particular difficulty he had as he prayerfully prayed “The Lord’s Prayer”.

Daily I would pay a phrase and then allow the Spirit to speak to me and through me as I allowed that phrase to wash around within my spirit. But daily I would feel one phrase stick in my throat [namely] - "**Thy will be done**". It was one thing to pray that God's will be done on

earth as it is in heaven. It was another to intentionally ask that God's will - not mine - would be done in my life that day. [or in the 8640 seconds of that day]

When I finally was able to talk with God about this difficulty, *and not simply try to ignore it*, - I began to notice a shift in my response to that prayer. I asked God to help me make this prayer, *my deepest desire*. And slowly I found God beginning to answer to this request. I began to discover a deep longing replacing that simple guilt when I came to that phrase [concerning HIS will].

I began to experience God's heart and God's desire within me.

There is no reason to feel guilty if you find it difficult to surrender to God's will. Even Christ found it hard. He who knew the depths and the dependability of the love of God better than any human also struggled to surrender to the demand of love that he lay down his life. It seemed to be, and was, horribly unnatural. It took a whole night of agony before he could say "*Thy will be done*"

Guilt is not the answer. Seeking Him and His heart is.....
Do you suppose that He would help us get there if we asked?

Have a great week.....all 60,480 seconds..... 😊

George