

PART ONE

YOUR SIGNIFICANCE

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THE PASSWORD

WITHOUT IT, YOU CAN'T ENTER - DISCOVER THE SECRET CODE

Temporary Amnesia

For some reason, I am the world's worst for remembering things. I tend to forget people's names, as well as passwords and PINs. On more than one occasion I have run into someone who knew me, and as we carried on a conversation I thought to myself, "*I'm not sure who this person is.*" Before you judge me, I recognized them because I remembered their face, but their name evaded my memory. It's like my mind was a hard drive, and their name had been deleted. When this occurs, I will normally respond back to the person in general terms without referring to them by name.

If forgetting people's names isn't embarrassing enough, several years ago I had gone by the ATM to withdraw some funds from my bank account. When I pulled up and inserted my card, I was confident I would soon be on my way with my money in hand. However, after three failed attempts at

my card's PIN, the ATM kept my card. I couldn't believe this machine had eaten my card. I wanted to get out and kick it, or better yet hit it with a baseball bat. Now I couldn't even go to the grocery store or restaurant because I didn't have my debit card. All because of this stupid machine! With the bank closed, this made matters worse. Not only did I not have my debit card, or the cash I went for, but I would also have to wait until morning to get this sorted out with the bank.

If this wasn't bad enough, I called home to tell my wife what had happened. As I explained how this horrible machine had eaten our bank card, she was in disbelief. As she began to ask questions about how this exactly happened, I explained how after three failed attempts at the PIN, the ATM kept my card. I was looking for sympathy and support, but instead, she asked me how I could have forgotten our PIN. I told her I didn't think I had, and then I repeated to her what I had typed in as the PIN. I did this with confidence. How could I be wrong? We had strategically chosen these numbers to be something we couldn't forget. She crushed my confidence by telling me I had punched in one wrong number. I can't speak for anyone else, but I don't enjoy being wrong. Honestly, I am rarely wrong, at least in my mind, but this time she had me dead to rights. As soon as she called the number out to me over the phone I was frustrated, how did I get it wrong?? We laugh about it now, but at the time it wasn't very funny.

I still have trouble remembering people's names, as well as my passwords and PINs. I don't believe I ever forgot our bank card's PIN again, but I have forgotten other numeric codes or passwords more times than I can count. For instance, at a company I worked for, I went in one morning to open up the business for the day. Like any other day, I walked in with confidence as the alarm system beeped furiously letting me know I only had a limited amount of time to punch in the numeric code to disarm the system. Knowing the password

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was no problem because it was a daily routine for me. The beeping didn't bother me, although I felt like a contestant on a game show hearing the music alerting them their time is running out. I reached the keypad with no trouble or pressure, and I punched in the code. Let me remind you, this is the code I had punched in every day for years. I entered the code without any real conscious thought, but it didn't work! Now I felt a little pressure because I knew I didn't have very much time to correctly enter the numeric passcode!

If my time ran out before entering the correct code, the alarm would sound. It would be a loud siren-like noise, which would then cause the security company to phone the business and ask for a password. If I couldn't hurry and get this numeric code punched in, this would inevitably be my fate. Then it happened; the siren sounded as I stood motionless and helpless in front of the keypad trying to determine, once again like with my debit card, how I had gotten the numbers wrong. The alarm system was deafening; I could hardly hear the phone ringing. I wasn't sure if it was the phone or my ears ringing due to the alarm blasting away in the background. I answered the phone and shouted, "Hello!" The lady responded with a question, "*We've received an alert that the alarm has been triggered at your location, is everyone ok?*" I said, "*Yes, I am just an idiot and can't remember the numeric passcode for some reason this morning.*" I didn't really say that to her, but those were most definitely my thoughts; I did assure her all was well. She then asked for the security password; after all, I could have been a thief stealing the company blind. Thankfully I was able to give her the verbal password successfully, and she turned off the alarm. Trust me when I tell you, this isn't the way you want to start your day.

These are a few examples out of the many instances I could recall for you where I have forgotten a password. In each instance I felt like I had undergone a time of temporary

amnesia, even though I hadn't. I am sure you have never had this happen to you and I am grateful you've not had to experience hearing loss due to neglecting to enter the correct password. Passwords can be a way to control your privacy and protect you, or in my case, they can be a curse. Let's dig a little deeper into this concept of the password.

The Password

In our modern age we have smartphones, tablets, security systems, emails, social media accounts, etc. Each one of these has the potential to require a password to gain access. If I were to give you my smartphone and didn't give you the password, it would not benefit you at all. You wouldn't be able to access any content on my phone except for the main screen which shows a picture of my wife, the time, date, and if I currently have service and Wi-Fi. For you to get the full benefit of the phone you would need to have my password. God has things for you today which He wants to unlock in your life, but He is waiting for you to put in the password. With no real success, you have been trying many different and constructive ways to get to this precious thing you desire to see God do in your life. I believe if you will read this book in its entirety you will not only discover the password, but how to correctly use it to achieve a life of success. You will learn how to apply the password so you can see God do the same kinds of miracles in your life as He did in the lives of those mentioned in the introductory chapter.

The password is "*SURRENDER!*"

Surrender is the password to see success in your life. It is the key to unlock God's blessings, favor, and His ability to

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achieve great things in and through your life. I know in our modern era the word “*surrender*” isn’t very popular. It carries with it a very negative connotation in many cultures today. We must understand God’s thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways. Jehovah usually seems to do things opposite of how we would do them. An example of this is Jesus teaching the last would be first and the first would be last. Most of us believe differently than this. The world’s way of looking at it is the first place is the first and last place is last. Our thinking is not if you’re in last place somehow you’ll move up to the front of the line into first place.



I happen to thoroughly enjoy the sport of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). Watching MMA is one of my favorite recreational past times. Submission, or surrender, is a huge part of MMA. When an MMA fighter is in a submission hold of some kind, such as a chokehold, they can save themselves through surrender. They do this by tapping their hand either the opponent who is choking them or the mat in the cage where they are fighting. The referee witnesses this symbol of surrender, will stop the fighter from choking their opponent, and the fight is over. The victory goes to the fighter who applied the chokehold, leaving the one who surrendered as the loser. Unlike MMA, God says if you surrender, you’ll be the winner.

Another use of the word surrender which leaves us with a negative thought is a soldier surrendering in battle. I can still hear the words ringing out from my drill instructors while I was in boot camp as they shouted, “*no retreat and no surrender!*” I have also had experiences with women who were getting married and they asked me if it was required to put the phrase “*submit to my husband*” in their vows. The reason for this is because of the negativity surrounding the word

surrender. But if we understand what it means to surrender to our Bridegroom, Jesus, we would surrender without hesitation. In God's economy, when the word surrender or submit is used, it could be defined as "an act which will benefit you."

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So even though surrender is a term with negative connotations in our modern culture, with God, it is the opposite being a term with positive connotations. This is exactly what we see happening throughout the Bible! People began to see God win the fights and battles they faced, both physically and spiritually, because they tapped out through their attitude of surrender. They saw their lives transformed by the power of God and by the act of surrender. Can I ask you again, do you want to see God's blessings, favor, and His amazing power at work in your life? If you answered yes, then this book could completely change your life as you glean from God's truths and learn to live a life of surrender.

The word surrender can also have the idea of yielding to something. Think about when you drive down the road and come to a yield sign. You slow down and look to see what is coming to avoid an accident. When there is something else moving in your direction, you yield as it moves towards you. You are giving the other vehicle the right of way in your life for a moment. Are you approaching your walk with God the same way? Are you surrendering to His authority and the moving of God in your direction? When you see God moving do you yield? Do you let Him have the right of way, or do you pull out in front of him, causing accidents on the highway of your life?

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In God's economy, when the word surrender or submit is used, it could be defined as "*an act which will benefit you.*" We call Jesus "*the King of kings,*" as well as our "*Lord,*" signifying He has authority over our lives. If we say this with an honest heart we are, in essence, saying we desire to allow Jesus to rule our lives, which carries the idea of a surrendered life to Jesus Christ. The Bible also refers to Jesus as the Great Shepherd. Sheep surrender to their shepherd. If we are the sheep of His pasture, shouldn't we be surrendered to Him? Sheep do not surrender to the authority of the shepherd because they're afraid of the shepherd. No. Sheep surrender because they've realized the shepherd has their best interest at heart. They realize it is because of the shepherd they are protected, provided for, and prosperous. Understanding it is better to allow the shepherd to lead them, feed them, care for them, and fight off their enemies. They understand this is of greater benefit than for them to do it themselves. As you consider the relationship with the sheep and the shepherd, you begin to understand how surrender is an act of trust.

If you've ever had to undergo a surgical procedure, you've surrendered your life to a surgeon. Now, consider how this is a person who can make a mistake and is not perfect. For all you know, the surgeon may currently have malpractice lawsuits against them. You surrender your very life to them for the time you're under anesthesia and in surgery. You're not awake during the surgical procedure. You can't ask them what they are doing, why they are cutting you there, or why they're putting a foreign object into your body. Not even why they chose to use a particular instrument? No, you surrender your life to them for the time it takes to complete the surgery. You allow them to have the authority in the situation, assuming they know what is best. If we can surrender to a surgeon we barely know, and have no experience with, then why can't we

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surrender to God? After all, God has gotten us this far, and He has provided for and protected us up to now.



“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV)

Notice in the above verse the Bible implies if we trust the *Lord*, surrendering to Him in all our ways, He will direct our paths. Through our submission to God’s leading, He becomes the director of our paths. I believe the majority of us have put to use another technological device we call a GPS. When you are driving in unfamiliar territory you employ the use of a Global Positioning System to help you find your way to the destination. You do this by entering the coordinates of the location where you desire to arrive, and then surrender to the voice speaking to you through your device. If the GPS instructs you to turn right or left you do so. If it tells you that you have arrived at your destination, you are grateful to have had the use of a GPS to get you there safely. I am not sure if anyone else has ever had a dangerous encounter due to their GPS giving them the wrong instructions, but I recall this happening to me recently. I was using my phone’s GPS to get me to a place I was familiar with because I wasn’t sure how to get there from where I was located. As I was in eye shot of the destination the voice from my phone told me to turn right and I would arrive at my location. Without even giving it a second thought I turned right and quickly realized this was a huge mistake. I had turned, at the advice of this voice through my phone, onto a one way on-ramp going the wrong direction with traffic coming towards me. Thankfully, it was later at night and there were only a few cars, so I was

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able to do a U-turn and get back on track to my destination. The GPS was helpful that night, but also harmful. God desires for us to allow Him to be our GPS, our God Positioning System, so He can direct our paths, and I can testify Jesus has never led me down the wrong path.



“Submit (surrender) yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7 KJV) Parenthesis added by me.

God isn't going to force you to surrender. He will not put you in a chokehold like an MMA fighter to cause you to tap out. Instead He instructs us to surrender to Him by choice. We find in this verse an amazing truth about surrender. It teaches us if we surrender to God, and resist the devil, he *will flee*. Realize you can only surrender to one thing at a time. God says you're either *“for me or against me.”* Joshua said, *“Choose ye this day whom you will serve.”* So in honesty, we can only be surrendered to one thing or person at any given time. If we surrender to God, then we are learning to trust Him, like sheep do their shepherd, to protect us and provide for us. We do so by resisting the devil when he comes at us with fears, anxieties, temptations, discouragements, etc., and Jesus causes the devil to flee from us. Like the lion who is seeking to devour, the devil realizes we trust in Jesus- the Great Shepherd. The Lord's rod and staff protect us, and He will prepare a table for us in the presence of our enemies. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords who has all power in heaven and earth. At His name, even the devils tremble and fear knowing they only have some power while Jesus has all power.

So the question then becomes, *“to whom or what are we surrendering?”* We are always choosing to surrender to

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something or someone. We find the three choices of our surrender in *James 4:7*. We are either surrendered to God, the devil, or ourselves. When we surrender our wills and desire to Satan, it is like being in a submission hold or chokehold. He forcefully makes you tap out and surrender to his authority. He wants you to fear him and holds those fears over you throughout your life as long as you allow him to. When you surrender to yourself, you are becoming prideful. In essence you are saying you don't need God. You're saying you can handle the day, the situation, and the circumstance all alone without the help of Jesus. Remember, pride comes before the fall. The moment you begin to believe you don't need God's help in your life, prepare yourself because you are about to fall. When you surrender your life to Jesus you don't even have to worry about the fight. He says to stand still and see the salvation of the *Lord*. Again, He says the battle is the Lord's!!

When you live a surrendered life, you don't need anyone to validate you. You know you are who God made you to be, and you are doing what He called you to do. You may already be thinking, "*I surrendered my life to Jesus when I asked Him to save me.*" The truth is, you can be saved and not completely surrender your life to Jesus!!

Salvation means you have allowed God to take control of your spirit. What about your body, your family, your finances, and your material possessions? Have you given God everything? If you have completely surrendered, it means everything you are and everything you have is surrendered to the Lord also. Maybe we should consider changing the lyrics of the old hymn from "*I surrender all*" to "*I surrender some,*" which is what most of us as believers have allowed, because so many never get to the place of total surrender. If we surrendered all, it would mean we are *GOING ALL IN* with Jesus.

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A life of complete surrender equals a successful life, a life of serenity in the Kingdom of God. We find this in the lives of the disciples. Jesus spoke to them and said: *“Follow me.”* He was saying surrender yourselves to my leading. Leave behind what you’ve been accustomed to doing up to now. They walked away from businesses, family, and everything common to them to follow Jesus.

Jonah is another example from which we can learn. Jonah is a prophet to Israel, sharing with them how God is going to bless them and prosper them. God gives Jonah the message to go to Nineveh and tell them about God’s coming destruction. Jonah runs away from God in a ship towards Tarshish instead of going to Nineveh. While on the ship a terrible storm comes up. The ship is in peril and about to sink. All the while, Jonah is asleep in the bottom of the ship. The men discover through Jonah’s admission the storm is his fault. They believe God is angry with him because he ran from his assignment. Notice what Jonah says to the men. He tells them they should throw him overboard, and in doing so they would be spared. Once they threw Jonah into the angry raging sea and it swallowed him up, God caused the storm to stop, and they lived. Isn’t it amazing, Jonah would rather suffer death than to surrender to God! It’s as if he said, *“I would rather be dead than to go to Nineveh and fulfill what God is telling me to do.”*

Many times in life, maybe even right now, you find yourself in a similar circumstance like Jonah. God is telling you to do something, and your mindset is you’d rather die than to do that. The amazing thing about the story is they threw Jonah in the water, and a whale swallowed him. He vanishes out of their sight. Immediately, the sea is calm, and they are alive. Jonah spends the next three days and nights in the belly of the fish. It is dark, it stinks, and there is all kinds of nastiness floating around him. After three days, Jonah cried out to God with an attitude of surrender. He told

God he was willing to go to Nineveh and preach to them. He simply needed God to get him out of the belly of the fish. So God allows the fish to spit Jonah out in Nineveh, where He wanted him to be in the first place.

Do you find yourself relating to Jonah? I know I have at different times in my life. You may currently be in a situation where you are feeling led by God to do a particular thing. You feel like you'd rather die than to do that. You feel as though you are in the midst of a dark, stinking situation with nastiness floating all around you. You may be thinking, "*I'm ok. I am surviving,*" but the reason you're still reading this book is because you have a desire to thrive and not simply survive. Realize it is by God's grace, mercy, and providential care you're even surviving.

Adam and Eve are great examples of surrender gone wrong. They started their life with an attitude of surrender, they had success and serenity. They had more than enough to meet their needs, and they were considered rulers (king and queen) under God. They were at perfect peace with one another, nature, and God. In one fatal moment they chose to surrender, not to God but instead to the desires of their flesh and the temptation of the devil. Many ask why God would even allow there to be a tree with fruit which would cause death in the garden. The tree was to remind them there was someone greater than themselves. In one moment, they chose to disobey God and to not surrender to His will. They lost the success and serenity which comes with a life surrendered because of one decision.

Another example is Moses. After being taught by his mother how he would be the deliverer of Israel, he chose to do things his way instead of God's way, which was a result of him choosing to surrender to his will instead of God's will in that season of his life. The Bible says he believed he could deliver the people of God by his hand. He took matters into

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his own hands, not relying on God for guidance. It resulted in Moses running and spending forty years in the backside of the wilderness.

We find in each example: Jonah, Adam and Eve, and Moses, they are running from God instead of running to God. Are we sprinting to get away from God and His call on our lives, or are we running to him as we begin surrendering our lives to His will?

A great example of another runner in the Bible, which was an act of surrender to God, is Joseph. You can read the full account of his life in *Genesis, chapters 37-50*. You will discover in his story Potiphar's wife was trying to seduce him. She did this day after day. On a certain day, she had made up her mind; she would have him in her bed. As she made her advances towards Joseph, he ran away from her and towards God with an attitude of surrender. With this in mind, would you say you are currently fleeing from God or following God? It is my prayer this book will transform your life as you begin to live with an attitude of surrender.

Do you want to have the blessings and favor of God? Do you wish to experience His mighty power working in and through your life? Do you wish to have a satisfied, successful, and serene life?

Then you have to choose to say, "*I am GOING All IN,*" and choose to live a life of complete surrender. Surrender is the password which will give you access to the life you desire with God!

