

ALL IN

2022

FIVE WEEKS OF PREPARING FOR GOD'S GREATER MOVE IN OUR CHURCH



SURRENDER



ACTS 12:1-24
WEEK 5

LIVE IN HIS PRESENCE | LOVE ONE ANOTHER | LEAD OTHERS TO JESUS
[CORNERSTONE.AG/ALLIN](https://cornerstone.ag/allin)



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365

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S E R M O N
N O T E S

DATE:

SERMON TITLE:



SESSION 5

ALL IN REQUIRES

Surrender

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:7-8

INTRODUCING THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: SURRENDER

Get ready! We are about to talk about a topic that our pride, comfort and our American culture hate – the idea of surrender. To surrender means to give complete control and power to something or someone else. That's the last thing we want to do. In our sinful nature and our sinful society, we want Christianity to help us have control instead of giving it to God.

As long as we live in this world, we will fight the temptation to give Jesus leftovers instead of our first and our best. We try to avoid completely surrendering to Him. The longer we are a Christian, the less we think of dying for Christ as the ultimate prize of life. We live in a Christian culture that thinks the greatest victory of this life is when Jesus helps us reach the American dream instead of rescuing souls from the nightmare of spending eternity in hell. We spend more time planning for retirement than we do for Jesus' return. We have a tough time surrendering an hour a week to focus on discipleship yet alone surrendering our lives. While living a wise and consistent life in the details of everyday living is a powerful part of the Christian life, we all have to admit that the surrender Jesus calls for is something we tend to avoid. Today, we will look at Peter at one of his greatest points of surrender versus King Herod in one of his greatest points of control and see the results of both.

GETTING STARTED

- 1 What is one moment of your life when you truly surrendered everything to Jesus?
- 2 How do you feel when someone challenges you to surrender more to Jesus?

ABOUT THIS Passage

SCRIPTURE

READ: ACTS 12:1-24

1 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. **2** He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. **3** When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. **4** After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. **5** So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. **6** The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. **7** Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists. **8** Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him. **9** Peter followed him out of the prison . . . Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there a while. **20** He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. Having secured the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king’s country for their food supply. **21** On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. **22** They shouted, “This is the voice of a god, not of a man.” **23** Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. **24** But the word of God continued to increase and spread.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

“Everyone wants to see a miracle but no one wants to be in a miraculous situation!”

Peter is in a place of full surrender. He has surrendered everything to follow Jesus and share His Gospel with the world. The consequence is to remain in prison under the absolute control of Herod and four squads of soldiers. Peter has no control and no power to help himself. And yet, Peter is exactly where God wants him to be! Is that hard for us to accept? To the world, he is a fool and a powerless victim, but, as we will see at the end of this chapter, his future is brighter and greater than Herod’s! Peter’s full surrendered means he is fully protected by God’s sovereign power. Herod doesn’t really have control and neither do the feared Roman soldiers. It’s the believers who pray who have power (even though they have a tough time believing it, Acts 12:15). Peter who lives by faith and not by sight (Acts 12:9) has the power to continue to spread God’s word and overcome every form of opposition. Ironically, Herod, who seems like he has control over everyone (including other nations in Acts 12:20), is the one who loses his life and all control for all eternity.

QUESTION

1 Why is faith essential to fully surrendering to God? (Refer to Hebrews 11:1)

LIVING THIS OUT TOGETHER

If we are going to be ALL IN on God's Kingdom mission for Cornerstone, we must renew our minds in how we serve one another and walk with each other. Based on Acts 6:3-5, we see the standards the early church used to serve one another. At Cornerstone, we want to renew our thinking about how we serve one another and the community for Christ. Here are the last two standards from Acts 6:3-5 we are adopting at Cornerstone:

STANDARD #4: CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

In Acts 12:13-16, Peter had to keep knocking at the door until the small group of people praying inside finally heard what Rhoda had been telling them all along: Peter was at the door waiting to be let in. But God's people were not listening and communicating well to each other. Because of this, they almost missed a miracle and a confirmation of their prayers!

In Acts 6:3-5, the men who are chosen to serve the rest of the church are known to be "full of wisdom." People who have wisdom understand that without consistent and timely communication people and plans get frustrated and fixed. We live in a busy society and yet, to be ALL IN with God's mission at Cornerstone, we have to communicate consistently with one another.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why is inconsistent communication so detrimental to organizations and people?
- 2 What are some essential and meaningful things you as a group should choose to actively and consistently communicate among one another?
- 3 List some practical examples of how every member of the group can be consistent in communicating in the group (for example: RSVP in a timely manner)

STANDARD #5: PRIORITIZING DIVERSITY IN OUR UNITY

In Acts 12:13, it's a servant girl who has the message and witness that everyone else needs to hear. It's a picture of a church family that values and needs every type of person. In Acts 6:5, the Apostles who have lived in Israel all their lives choose Greek believers (who have lived outside of Israel and don't all speak the same language) as those who should serve and lead the church. Every person named, ". . . Procorus, Nicanor, Tomin ..." are names from a different culture than Jerusalem. In the same way, we take time to prioritize people who are different than us (economically in Acts 12:13 or culturally in Acts 6:5). The result is that we grow to know and understand the power of Jesus in new ways. Being with other believers from a similar background, culture and language can help us easily connect and build relationships. We can also grow and learn from other believers who are different than us.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the weakness and even danger of only spending time with people who look and sound like ourselves? Are you familiar with the term "echo chamber"?
- 2 How can we take steps to invite other voices and new lives into the fellowship of our small group to help us see the Church God wants for us?
- 3 How does this kind of diversity require us to be ALL IN surrendered?

PRAYER POINTS

Close your time together in prayer. Take down prayer requests at some point. Take your time to live in His presence together. Here are some ways you can choose to pray as a group based on this session:

- 1 Based on what you have heard from each other as you answered the discussion questions, spend some time praying for each other.
- 2 Pray that God eliminates isolation and division in your group and church through a common love for Jesus and by a greater commitment to communicate well with each other.
- 3 Pray that as a group and a church we will prioritize and grow in being fully surrendered to Jesus and His mission.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Below is a space for you to write down the prayer requests of others from your small group to pray for all week long.

[illegible]



DAY 1
Another look at Acts 12:1-19a

While growing up in the church, there were many words and phrases that I constantly heard being talked about that I honestly did not know the meaning of. One was the word “surrender.” Often, we hear this word in the context of surrendering our lives to Christ. But what does this mean? How deep should our surrender be? What does our surrender look like and what should it look like?

In Acts 12 we see three examples of people surrendering to Christ. The first instance is with James, who is martyred by King Herod because of his faith (verse 2). The second instance is with Peter, who is imprisoned by King Herod after he was met with approval by the Jews for the execution of James (verse 4). The third instance is with the church. While Peter was imprisoned, the church began to earnestly pray for him (verse 5).

The church at that time was sad and discouraged by the news that Peter had been imprisoned. However, this situation is what fueled them to “earnestly” pray for Peter. To earnestly pray means to pray without stopping while surrendering everything else going on around you.

With everything that is happening in our schools and our neighborhoods, we need devoted men and women of God to rise up in the church and earnestly pray for a move of God. What must we surrender in order to earnestly pray for one another as the body of Christ?

“So, Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.” Acts 12:5

DAY 2
Another look at Acts 12:19b-24

“He did not give glory to God”
Herod was struck down because he did not give glory to God. How can man give glory to God? When I see the word “glory” in the biblical text, I consult John 17 where Jesus speaks of “glory”.

Conventional understanding of “give God glory” is something that we should do when something good happens to us. We should acknowledge that all good comes from God as stated by James 1:17. Also, John 17 noted this was Jesus’ priestly prayer for himself, His disciples, and future followers. Glory seems to be connected to the life posture of being in agreement with God’s will.

It’s unlikely that Herod was struck down because he refused to respond to the chant of the people by saying “to God be the glory”. It is more likely that Herod, like us, became refined in his life as a people pleaser. I hear Matthew 6:2 speaking to us about being a people pleaser, saying we have already received our full reward. Hey you, us, all of us “Herods”! What are we not doing because we don’t want to look weird or being perceived as such? How are you hiding that you are a Jesus follower? I submit that God receives glory when we choose to be courageous for the Kingdom like Peter displayed in Acts 5:27-32. Jesus followers, it is time to deny ourselves (Luke 9:23-26) the comfort of how we are perceived so the Word can continue to grow in us.

Consistent communication is key to so much in this life. Every time we change our words, our purpose, our mission or our motivations, we start back at the beginning. The more we say the same thing, knock on the same door, repeat the same message, the clearer that truth becomes. Ultimately, our lives will be known by what we have consistently communicated to others.



DAILY Devotionals

DAY 3

Our Standards:

We grow disciples who have: Consistent Communication

Our unity is essential if we are to fulfill the Great Commission. Jesus prayed we would be one so that we would bring glory to Him. So many times, we have a heart for unity but we fail to communicate and help stay connected to one another. Amos 3:3 asks how can two walk together unless they agree. I (Pastor Shawn) would add, “And how can two people agree if they don’t communicate with each other? It may seem overly simplistic, but I think one of the hinderances to our church experiencing a greater unity is the lack of consistent communication. In Acts 6:3, the first church entrusted servanthood to those who were “full of wisdom”. Wisdom knows that there is no such thing as a strong relationship without good communication. Whether it is in our personal, family or church lives, let’s be people who communicate consistently to protect and strengthen our relationships.

REFLECT

How am I doing when it comes to communicating consistently? What is one practical way I can improve my communication (and relationships) in my personal, family and church life?

Lord Jesus, lead me in doing my part to strengthen my communication with those I love and with whom I want to be in unity.

DAY 4

Our Standards:

We grow disciples who: Prioritize Diversity in Our Unity

Have you ever heard the saying, “They are fighting with one arm tied behind their back?” The idea is that it is unfair to try to get something done without using the ability of the entire body. How sad that many churches have settled for the exact limitation as they try to accomplish the Great Commission! In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul says, “19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.” In Acts 6:5, the first Apostles chose seven people who were of a different culture, economic status and heart language. They weren’t looking for people who were “all one part”. Every time we learn to love and share life with someone different than us, we learn to love and experience God’s grace in greater ways.

REFLECT

How am I growing diverse relationships? Who is someone with a different background who blesses me? How can I bless them and grow to know them more?

DAY 5

OUR FINAL 365 DEVOTIONAL

Will you be ALL IN for His Glory and Cornerstone’s Mission?

“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.” Psalm 84:6

On January 1, 2022 we began a journey (a “pilgrimage to Pentecost”) to become a church living in a greater outpouring of His Holy Spirit. We began our journey through the Book of Acts and have seen the Lord take us step-by-step deeper into His Word and ways. And now, as we near the end of the year, I (Pastor Shawn) am praying that we will see the outpouring in these final months. In fact, our Advent series will be “The gift of the Holy Spirit this Christmas”. It will be a daily study on the work of the Holy Spirit in the Christmas story and in us. I am praying that the Lord will give us a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit. For this to happen, we need to commit to His mission and His ways. We need to be ALL IN as a church family who grows disciples who: live in His Presence, love one another and lead others to Jesus.

REFLECT

Will you be ALL IN as part of our church family and join our “365”?



In John 17:11 Jesus prayed that all of His disciples would be one. As a church, understanding our mission, priorities and standards helps us to have unity within our great diversity. Knowing these gives us the ability to be ALL IN for His glory 365 days a year!

3 || OUR MISSION

WE grow disciples who:

1. *Live in His presence*
2. *Love one another*
3. *Lead others to Jesus*

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus has given us one mission: go and make disciples. True disciples make disciples. Our church is a place where we strengthen you and provide space to do that. Our mission statement identifies three of the greatest characteristics of a true and growing disciple.

In Mark 12:30, Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love God with everything you have and everything you are. We know this is only possible through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, our mission is to help disciples grow in living in the Spirit (Live in His Presence) every day.

In John 13:34, Jesus gives one new command, to love one another the way He loves us. Cornerstone's mission is to provide the teaching, opportunities and encouragement for each disciple to receive the love of God and grow in living it out. (Love One Another)

In Luke 19:10, Jesus said that He came to seek and save what was lost. True disciples of Jesus want to do the same thing. True disciples make other disciples and fulfill the heart of God to have the lost found and come back to His family. (Lead Others to Jesus)

We sum all of this up with a simple saying: "Live. Love. Lead."

6 || OUR PRIORITIES

Acts 2:42-47 describes the pattern and priorities of the first church that Jesus created through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We commit to these same priorities through specific programs that give you the chance to be discipled and disciple others.

WE grow disciples through our:

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| 1. <i>Discipleship Pathway</i> | (v42) <i>"devoted ... to the apostles teaching"</i> |
| 2. <i>Small Groups</i> | (v42) <i>"devoted themselves ... to the fellowship"</i> |
| 3. <i>Spirit-led Services & Prayer</i> | (v43) <i>"many signs and wonders were done"</i> |
| 4. <i>Bilingual Ministry</i> | (v44) <i>"All ... had everything in common"</i> |
| 5. <i>Ministry Teams</i> | (v45) <i>"They gave to anyone as they had need"</i> |
| 6. <i>Next Gen Programs</i> | (v47) <i>"The Lord added ... those who were ... saved"</i> |

You can find out more about each of these priorities on our website and in our Week 2 & Week 3 ALL IN study.

5 || OUR STANDARDS

Acts 6:3-5 gives us a description of those who were first called to serve the church. We believe that all those who serve should grow into this as a standard. We want every member to become a disciple that has these qualities and commitments in their relationships and in their ministry. These standards grow great disciples who make a very fruitful church! Notice the New Testament church pattern for those who serve & lead.

WE grow disciples with:

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|---|---|
| 1. <i>Personal Integrity</i> | (v3) <i>"known to be full of the Holy Spirit"</i> |
| 2. <i>Ministry Competency</i> | (v3) <i>"we will turn this responsibility over to them"</i> |
| 3. <i>A Team Building Mindset</i> | (v3) <i>"choose seven men from among you"</i> |
| 4. <i>Consistent Communication</i> | (v3) <i>"full of ... wisdom"</i> |
| 5. <i>Prioritizing Diversity in our Unity</i> | (v5) <i>"they chose ...Philip, Procorus, Nicanor ..."</i> |

You can find out more about each of these standards through our Week 4 & Week 5 ALL IN study and in both our Keep Growing and ministry team trainings.



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