

Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

Day 10 "The heart of worship is surrender."

Imagine yourself totally lost and trapped in a burning building. Suddenly, out of the smoke and flames, a fireman appears. He comes up to you and says: "Follow me, and do exactly what I tell you to do. If you do, I can get you out of here alive – otherwise, you will die." This man has asked you to unconditionally surrender your will to his, and with high likelihood you would not be inclined to argue with him by claiming the adequacy of your own wisdom or the superiority of your own plans. You would most likely be consumed with gratitude, and fervently hope that you clearly heard all of his instructions so that you could follow them. If you have this image clearly in mind, you have grasped the true nature of life on earth and the motivation for surrendering to Jesus. The burning building is the world that shall pass away, and Jesus is the fireman:

"By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (Peter 3:7-9 [NIV])

The building is full of people, and Jesus would like to save them all. Jesus experiences great joy when someone surrenders to Him, and wants to share that joy with us by offering those who genuinely listen to and obey Him a role in saving others from the burning building. Have you ever wondered what "eternal rewards" might be? Imagine being saved by two firemen. After safely emerging from the burning building they both remove their hats, goggles and gas masks. The fireman in command is Jesus, and the other is a person you know. Will you not eternally smile in gratitude at them both? Now, imagine that you are the second fireman. The smiles of those you help out of the burning building will never fade – they are your reward.

- For a person trapped in sin there is only one way out – to listen to and obey the One who loves you and came to save you.
- God is so pleased when a person chooses to unconditionally follow Him that He offers him a job helping Him save others, thereby earning eternal rewards.
- Following Christ is completely reasonable, as it is the only way to find life and to help others do so as well.

Today, ask yourself what distracts you from hearing and following the voice of Jesus. Are you trying to gather up "treasures" while the building burns around you? Have you decided to stop off at the kitchen for a snack on the way out? Have you told Jesus that you will indeed follow Him, but you are really rather tired and first need a nap? How sure are you that the roof will not fall in on you TODAY?
