

Absolute Surrender Andrew Murray

absolute surrender andrew murray Introduction In the realm of Christian spiritual development, few concepts have been as influential and transformative as that of absolute surrender. The teachings of Andrew Murray, a renowned 19th-century Christian writer and pastor from South Africa, have profoundly shaped understanding around this idea. His writings emphasize the importance of surrendering one's will entirely to God as the pathway to spiritual fullness, peace, and divine power. This article explores the essence of absolute surrender as articulated by Andrew Murray, delving into its biblical foundation, practical implications, and the profound impact it can have on a believer's life.

Understanding Absolute Surrender According to Andrew Murray

Defining Absolute Surrender

Andrew Murray describes absolute surrender as a complete, unreserved giving of oneself to God. It involves relinquishing personal control, desires, and ambitions to embrace God's will fully. This surrender is not a momentary act but a continuous attitude of the heart that acknowledges God's sovereignty over every aspect of life. Key aspects of Murray's concept of surrender include: - Total consecration of oneself to God. - Abandonment of self-effort in favor of divine grace. - Absolute trust in God's plan and timing. - Recognition that true strength and peace come from relinquishing control. Murray often emphasized that surrender is the only way to experience the fullness of God's power and love.

Biblical Foundations of Absolute Surrender

Andrew Murray's teachings are deeply rooted in Scripture. He draws heavily from the Bible to support the concept of surrender, citing passages that call believers to trust, obedience, and total devotion. Key biblical references include: - Romans 12:1-2: "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God." - Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." - Luke 9:23: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." - Philippians 3:7-8: Paul's statement about counting all as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. Murray underscores that these scriptures call believers to a lifestyle of daily surrender, not just a one-time decision.

The Process of Absolute Surrender

Recognizing the Need for Surrender

The first step is recognizing that human effort alone is insufficient for spiritual growth and fulfillment. Murray advocates for believers to see surrender as an act of faith and trust rather than a sign of weakness. Points to consider: - Acknowledging personal limitations and inability to attain righteousness on one's own. - Understanding that true peace and power come from divine grace. - Recognizing areas of life where control is still held tightly (e.g., ambitions, fears, relationships).

Making the Surrender

Andrew Murray encourages believers to make a deliberate, heartfelt act of surrender, often through prayer. This act is characterized by humility, honesty, and faith. Steps to surrender include: - Confessing areas of resistance or control. - Offering oneself fully to God's purpose. - Trusting that God's plan is best, regardless of circumstances. - Releasing all attachments to personal desires. Murray likens surrender to laying down a heavy burden at the feet of Christ, trusting Him to take care of everything.

Living in Continuous Surrender

Surrender is not a one-time event but a daily, ongoing attitude. Murray stresses the importance of maintaining an attitude of dependence on God. Practical ways to cultivate continuous surrender: - Regular prayer and Bible study. - Surrendering daily tasks and decisions to God. - Practicing openness to God's guidance, even when it leads outside comfort zones. - Cultivating humility to accept God's will in all circumstances.

The Benefits and Fruits of Absolute Surrender

Spiritual Power and Divine Grace

Murray asserts that surrender unlocks divine power within believers, enabling them to live victorious Christian lives. It allows the Holy Spirit to work unhindered, resulting in spiritual fruitfulness. Benefits include: - Increased intimacy with God. - Greater peace amidst life's trials. - Power to resist temptation. - Ability to serve others selflessly.

Inner Peace and Joy

A surrendered life is characterized by a deep sense of peace and joy, as believers trust in God's sovereignty and goodness. Fruits of surrender: - Freedom from anxiety and worry. - Contentment in all circumstances. - A sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Transformation and Holiness

Surrender leads to a transformation of character, aligning believers more closely with Christ. Transformative outcomes include: - Cultivating love, patience, humility. - Overcoming selfishness and pride. - Developing a Christlike attitude.

Common Misconceptions About Absolute Surrender

Misconception 1: Surrender Means Loss of Identity

Some interpret surrender as losing personal identity or autonomy. Murray clarifies that surrender is about surrendering control, not individuality. A surrendered life is full of purpose aligned with God's plan.

Misconception 2: Surrender Is a One-Time Event

Many think surrender is a single act. Murray emphasizes it as an ongoing process, requiring daily renewal and commitment.

Misconception 3: Surrender Is a Sign of Weakness

Contrary to this belief, Murray portrays surrender as a sign of spiritual strength rooted in trust and humility.

Practical Steps to Embrace Absolute Surrender

1. Self-Examination

- Identify areas of resistance or control. - Reflect on motives and attachments.

2. Prayer of Surrender

- Use specific prayers expressing willingness to yield. - Example: "Lord, I surrender all to You; take control of my life."

3. Faith in God's Goodness

- Trust that God's plans are better than ours. - Rely on His promises and character.

4. Daily Commitment

- Make surrender a daily habit. - Incorporate into morning devotions and decision-making.

5. Obedient Action

- Act in accordance with God's leading. - Be willing to step outside comfort zones.

Andrew Murray's Legacy and Relevance Today

Impact of Murray's Teachings

Andrew Murray's writings, especially his book *Absolute Surrender*, continue to inspire millions. His simple yet profound teachings make the path of surrender accessible and practical. Key aspects of his legacy include: - Emphasis on the necessity of personal holiness. - Promoting a Christ-centered life. - Encouraging believers to experience the fullness of divine life through surrender.

Relevance in Modern Christian Life

In a world filled with distractions, self-reliance, and material pursuits, Murray's call to absolute surrender remains vital. It offers a pathway to inner peace, spiritual power, and genuine joy. Contemporary applications include: - Overcoming anxiety by trusting God's sovereignty. - Cultivating humility in leadership and service. - Experiencing revival and spiritual renewal through surrender.

Conclusion

The teachings of Andrew Murray on absolute surrender present a compelling blueprint for spiritual growth. They challenge believers to relinquish control, trust in God's sovereignty, and live in continual dependence on divine grace. As Murray beautifully articulates, surrender is not a sign of weakness but a demonstration of faith and strength rooted in humility. Embracing this principle can lead to a transformed life marked by divine power, inner peace, and a deep sense of purpose. In today's fast-paced, self-reliant culture, the call to absolute surrender remains as relevant and necessary as ever—inviting believers into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Christ, and unlocking the fullness of His divine life within them.

Absolute Surrender Andrew Murray is a timeless spiritual classic that continues to resonate with believers and seekers worldwide. Authored by the renowned South African Christian writer and teacher Andrew Murray (1828-1917), the book explores the profound concept of surrender—a spiritual act that signifies giving one's entire self over to God's will. Murray's teachings emphasize that true Christian life is rooted in complete dependence and trust in God, which is only achievable through absolute surrender. This comprehensive review delves into the essence of Murray's work, unpacking its theological foundations, practical implications, and enduring relevance.

Introduction to Andrew Murray and the Concept of Surrender

Who Was Andrew Murray?

Andrew Murray was a prolific writer, pastor, and missionary whose life was dedicated to deepening Christian faith and practice. Born in South Africa, Murray's writings reflect a passionate desire to guide believers into a more intimate relationship with God. His works often focus on themes of humility, prayer, faith, and surrender, emphasizing that spiritual growth requires a voluntary relinquishing of self-centeredness.

Understanding Absolute Surrender

At the core of Murray's teachings is the idea that Christian maturity involves surrendering one's own will completely to God. "Absolute surrender" is not a vague or passive act but an intentional, conscious decision to relinquish control, acknowledging God's sovereignty in every aspect of life. Murray argues that this surrender is the pathway to spiritual freedom, peace, and victorious Christian living.

The Theological Foundations of Absolute Surrender

The Biblical Basis

Murray's concept of surrender is rooted deeply in Scripture. Key biblical passages underpin his teachings, including: - Romans 12:1: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." - Galatians 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." - Luke 9:23: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." These verses highlight the necessity of self-denial, sacrifice, and total commitment, forming the

theological backbone of Murray's call for surrender.

The Nature of Surrender: A Heart Issue

Murray emphasizes that surrender is primarily a matter of the heart. It involves a genuine willingness to trust God's plan, even when it conflicts with personal desires or understanding. This inner attitude of obedience and dependence is the foundation of a victorious Christian life.

Misconceptions about Surrender

Many believers misunderstand surrender as a one-time event or a sign of weakness. Murray clarifies that true surrender is an ongoing process, requiring daily recommitment. It is not about loss but about gaining the fullness of life in Christ, which can only be accessed through complete submission.

The Practical Aspects of Absolute Surrender

Steps Toward Surrender

Murray delineates several practical steps to achieve and maintain surrender: 1. Self-Examination: Recognizing areas of self-will and independence. 2. Confession and Repentance: Acknowledging disobedience and submitting to God's authority. 3. Trust in God's Love and Wisdom: Believing that God's plans are best for us. 4. Decisive Commitment: Making a conscious choice to surrender every part of life. 5. Daily Surrender: Renewing the act of surrender each morning or as needed.

The Role of Faith and Prayer

Murray underscores that surrender is facilitated through faith and prayer. By consistently seeking God's presence and guidance, believers develop a dependence that naturally leads to surrender. Prayer becomes a dialogue of trust, where believers release their burdens and plans into God's hands.

Overcoming Obstacles to Surrender

Common barriers include fear, pride, self-reliance, and a misunderstanding of God's sovereignty. Murray offers reassurance that surrender leads to freedom, not loss. He encourages believers to trust in God's goodness and to view surrender as a pathway to divine blessing.

The Results and Benefits of Absolute Surrender

Spiritual Freedom and Peace

One of the central promises of surrender is peace—an inner calm that surpasses understanding. When believers relinquish control, they experience relief from anxiety, guilt, and spiritual unrest. Murray describes surrender as liberation from the burdens of self-reliance.

Deeper Intimacy with God

Absolute surrender fosters a closer relationship with Christ. As believers yield their will, they open their hearts to divine love, guidance, and fellowship. This intimacy transforms their spiritual journey from

mere duty to joyful communion.

Power for Effective Service

Murray asserts that surrender unlocks divine power. When believers are fully committed, they become vessels through which God's grace and strength flow, enabling effective ministry and impact.

Victory over Sin and the Flesh

Surrender is portrayed as the key to overcoming sinful tendencies and fleshly desires. By surrendering control, believers allow the Holy Spirit to work within them, producing fruit and holiness.

The Enduring Relevance of *Absolute Surrender*

Modern Applications

Despite being written over a century ago, Murray's teachings remain profoundly relevant today. In an era characterized by materialism, individualism, and superficial spirituality, the call to surrender challenges believers to prioritize divine sovereignty over personal ambition. Key areas of application include: - Personal Spiritual Growth: Cultivating humility and dependence. - Ministry and Mission: Serving selflessly without attachment to results. - Inner Peace: Finding stability amid societal chaos through trust in God. - Holistic Living: Aligning all aspects of life—professional, personal, relational—under God's lordship.

Criticisms and Challenges

Some critics argue that the concept of surrender may be misunderstood as passive surrender or fatalism. Murray's clarification that surrender is active and deliberate counters this misconception. It requires intentional effort, trust, and ongoing commitment.

The Legacy of Andrew Murray's Teachings

Murray's emphasis on surrender has influenced countless Christians, spiritual leaders, and movements worldwide. His writings encourage believers to move beyond superficial religiosity into authentic dependence on God, fostering a vibrant, victorious faith.

Conclusion: Embracing Absolute Surrender Today

In a world filled with distractions, doubts, and competing priorities, the call to absolute surrender remains as vital as ever. Andrew Murray's *Absolute Surrender* is not merely a theological treatise but a practical guide for transforming one's spiritual life. It challenges believers to relinquish their self-will, trust in God's plan, and embrace a life of complete dependence and love. As Murray eloquently states, "Surrender is the path to victory." By understanding its biblical foundations, practicing its principles, and trusting in its promises, Christians can experience the fullness of life that Christ offers—marked by peace, power, and divine intimacy. In essence, Murray's timeless message invites all to step into a deeper, more surrendered walk with God, unlocking the boundless blessings of divine grace and love.

End of Article

Questions & Answers About absolute surrender andrew murray

No	Question	Answer
1	What is the main message of Andrew Murray's book on absolute surrender?	Andrew Murray's main message is that absolute surrender to God is the key to experiencing true spiritual freedom, victory, and a deeper relationship with Christ. It involves surrendering all aspects of oneself completely and trusting God's plan.
2	How does Andrew Murray define 'absolute surrender' in his teachings?	Andrew Murray defines 'absolute surrender' as a complete and unconditional giving of oneself to God, trusting His sovereignty and grace, and relinquishing control over one's life to His will without reservation.
3	What are practical steps to practice absolute surrender according to Andrew Murray?	According to Andrew Murray, practical steps include daily prayer and consecration, surrendering personal desires, trusting God's plan, and cultivating a life of continuous dependence on the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength.
4	Why is absolute surrender considered essential for spiritual growth in Andrew Murray's teachings?	Andrew Murray emphasizes that absolute surrender is essential because it removes self-reliance, aligns the believer fully with God's purposes, and opens the heart to the fullness of the Holy Spirit, thereby fostering genuine spiritual growth.
5	How has Andrew Murray's concept of absolute surrender influenced modern Christian spirituality?	Murray's concept of absolute surrender has inspired many Christians to pursue deeper devotion, trust in God's sovereignty, and a more intimate relationship with Christ, influencing spiritual practices such as prayer, consecration, and surrender as pathways to spiritual renewal.

spiritual submission, complete surrender, trusting God, divine surrender, Christian obedience, spiritual humility, surrender to Christ, faith and surrender, divine trust, prayer and surrender