

# a·bide

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Freedom. As Americans, we believe freedom is a fundamental right. But what is the true path to freedom? How do we become free from our bad habits, or from the issues of the past? What if the way Jesus invites us into freedom is completely upside-down from how we would go about it on our own? Let's jump back into John 15 and discover what Jesus invites us into.

**read: John 15:9-12**

What does it mean to surrender? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you see surrendering as an act of weakness? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Our will is precious to God. He doesn't want us to be robots, conforming to His will without thought or the true desire of our hearts. His will is that we would cast our cares upon him and abide in his love.*

Becoming self-aware can often help us to know where we need to invite more of God's grace into our lives. Check anything below that relates to your life right now:

\_\_\_\_\_ The amount of money in my bank account determines my sense of security

\_\_\_\_\_ The approval of others affects my self-confidence

\_\_\_\_\_ The status of my family affects my sense of well-being

\_\_\_\_\_ How I perform determines my value

\_\_\_\_\_ The level of peace I'm experiencing is determined by my circumstances

\_\_\_\_\_ How attractive I am is a reflection of my worth

\_\_\_\_\_ The performance of my children defines me as a parent

\_\_\_\_\_ I need to look good to be loved

***The more we depend on God for our sense of security, peace, value, or worth, the more freedom we experience. Surrendering is the pathway to power and freedom.***

**read: Luke 9:23**

What do you feel like Jesus is actually inviting us to do here?

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*Taking up our cross means we submit to no longer getting our way.  
It's saying: "I can't; but God can...and I must let him."*

As you consider what you checked off earlier, finish the sentence below:

I can't \_\_\_\_\_,

but God can \_\_\_\_\_.

I must let Him ... \_\_\_\_\_.

Submission, obedience and transformation is a life-long process for the believer. This is actually good news for us, because we don't have to figure everything out this week. We may think we've submitted our money until someone needs it. We may think we have surrendered our time to God until someone wants it.  
We believe we have submitted our circumstances until they no longer suit us.  
We might think we have surrendered our will until it is crossed.

**read: Galatians 5:13-17**

In your own words, what is Paul saying here? \_\_\_\_\_

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*God knows what truly brings you joy. After all, he uniquely created you. Choosing to trust, obey and submit to Him will bring about a purity of love and an abundance of joy. His way brings true freedom.*

***prayer for the week:***

*Lord, your Love for me is real, but I long to experience it even more.  
Help me surrender my will to you so that your glory would shine for others to see.  
Teach me to love, obey and abide so that I may experience the fullness of joy only found in you.  
Amen.*

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