

CHOOSE OR LOSE: DEVOTIONAL Week 5

Devotional: Choose Surrender

I remember the exact moment I knew the business wasn't going to make it.

I was staring at numbers that didn't lie—bills we couldn't pay, pressure that kept building, doors that weren't opening. And in that moment, I felt a wave of disappointment crash over me. Not just because the business was struggling, but because, deep down, I believed this was the thing God had for me.

I had prayed over it, poured my heart into it, and dreamed about it. It wasn't just a job; it was a calling—or at least I thought it was.

So when I sensed that I had to shut it down, I wrestled hard. Not just with the decision, but with God.

“God, this was supposed to be it. You brought me here. I followed You. I stepped out in faith. How can this be the end?”

Maybe you've had a moment like that—

Where what you expected doesn't match what's unfolding.

Where it feels like God handed you a dream and then let it crumble.

Where your faith got really quiet because disappointment got really loud.

That's when I started to learn something that changed how I walk with Jesus: **Faith and surrender always go together.**

It's easy to have faith when things are growing, when doors are opening, and when it feels like your life is aligned with your prayers. But the real test of faith is what you do when things don't go as planned—when it's not growing, when the door slams shut, when you have to let go of something that once felt like a gift from God Himself.

That's when surrender becomes a choice. And not just a one-time choice—a **pre-decision**.

- Before the next big opportunity.
- Before the pressure builds again.
- Before the plan looks perfect.

You pre-decide: **God, I will trust Your will—even when it's not mine.**

Surrender isn't weak. It's one of the boldest things you'll ever do.

It says:

“I choose Your plan even when I don't see the path.

I choose Your pace even when it feels slow.

I choose Your voice even when mine is screaming louder.”

And that's the kind of strength David talked about in **Psalms 27**.

It takes courage to wait. Strength to trust. Faith to surrender.

Because trusting God means we don't just follow Him when the road is clear—we follow Him when it's dark, confusing, and disappointing. And we believe He's still good, still working, still leading.

Verse to Memorize (All Week):

Psalm 27:14

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

Story to Remember:

David and Saul in a Cave

DAY 1 – When the Promise Feels Far Off

READ: 1 Samuel 24:1-2

REFLECT:

David was already anointed to be king, but Saul was still wearing the crown. The gap between the promise and the fulfillment was full of tension, waiting, and even danger. Sound familiar?

Sometimes, we find ourselves in that in-between space—called, but not yet crowned. Waiting for God to come through, open a door, or make it clear.

JOURNAL:

- Where in your life do you feel stuck between the promise and the fulfillment?
 - How do you typically handle seasons of waiting?
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DAY 2 – The Trap of the Perfect Opportunity

READ: 1 Samuel 24:3-4

REFLECT:

This looked like the perfect setup. David's enemy walks into the cave alone. His men are cheering him on. This had to be the moment, right?

But not every open door is from God. Sometimes, the enemy disguises shortcuts in spiritual wrapping.

JOURNAL:

- Have you ever had an "opportunity" that looked right but wasn't?
 - How do you discern between God's timing and your own ambition?
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DAY 3 – Strength to Surrender

READ: 1 Samuel 24:5-7

REFLECT:

David's heart was tender. Just cutting the robe made his conscience ache. Why? Because he understood something powerful: **surrendering to God takes more strength than seizing control.**

It's easy to talk about surrender when we're clueless. It's harder when we think we see a faster way.

JOURNAL:

- Where are you tempted to "take the wheel" in your life right now?
 - What would it look like to actually surrender that area to God?
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DAY 4 – Character Over Control

READ: James 4:13-15

REFLECT:

God cared more about shaping David's character than rushing him to the crown. In the same way, God may be using the waiting in your life to form something deeper within you.

He's not just getting you to the destination—He's preparing you to handle it when you get there.

JOURNAL:

- What parts of your character might God be refining during this season?
 - Are you focused more on outcomes or obedience right now?
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DAY 5 – Courage to Trust the Promise

READ: Psalm 27:14 (again)

REFLECT:

You won't make it through the wait without strength and courage. Not the hype kind—but the deep, steady kind that comes from trusting God's promises. David believed that if God called him, God would carry him.

Surrender isn't passive—it's choosing **bold faith** in God's plan over your own.

JOURNAL:

- What promise of God do you need to hold onto right now?
 - Write a prayer asking God for the courage to trust Him fully.
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