

Today is Super Bowl Sunday. Kansas City Chiefs vs. Philadelphia Eagles. Since my team Denver Broncos is out of the season, I don't have any particular feelings about who might win today's game. However, I am cheering for the Chiefs because one of my friends, Bill Jaeger, is a Chiefs die-hard fan. So, I say, "Go, Chiefs." 😊

On this Super Bowl Sunday, we are talking about absolute surrendering. Yeah, absolute surrendering is possible when we are completely in love. We can see that in the Super Bowl game today. We can see that when people are in love with someone or something. Theoretically, the whole concept of complete surrender in love sounds very romantic and blissful, doesn't it? This is particularly true when the relationship is new or relatively young. After all, doesn't it feel awesome to give more than is required of us when we are in love? But the truth is that many of us are struggling to achieve that kind of relationship and level of commitment. It may sound like we are being asked to give in, or worse, we are losing ground. If we want to inspire our love life to a higher level, to enjoy peaceful, loving life like never before, then that demands total surrender.

In the first eleven chapters of the Book of Romans in the Bible, leading up to chapter 12, which is today's scripture came from, Apostle Paul argued that when people fully recognize and appreciate the incredible favor bestowed upon them through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, the appropriate response is complete submission to the will and power of the Lord. Apostle Paul, in the Book of Romans, chapter 12, calls on the followers of Jesus Christ to yield completely to God. Until we surrender to God fully, Apostle Paul says that we can never experience the fullness of joy and blessing God has for us individually and as a church.

Surrendering to God is not an automatic response, even though it is needed to experience God's greatest work in and through our lives. Instead, surrendering to God is a decision made by each and every believer. God never forces this commitment upon us but offers the invitation upon receiving the gift of life in Christ Jesus.

This decision does not come without conditions or demands, however. Choosing to walk in absolute surrender is a lofty one. It requires a total life commitment to the

Lord, not to the ways of this world. It offers up every part of oneself as a living and holy sacrifice. The life of the surrendered looks noticeably different in every aspect, especially regarding how they think. Absolute surrender demands a different way of thinking and seeing, which means not being "conformed to this world, but...transformed by the renewing of [the] mind..." (Romans 12:2a).

When the decision is made to commit our hearts, soul, and mind totally to the way of Christ, it doesn't come without a reward. By fully surrendering, we get to be the beneficiaries of experiencing the goodness of God's will. Through the regeneration of our thoughts and daily sacrifice of all parts of our lives, we get to "prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2b). The word "prove" in Romans 12:2b means to see unfold or to see worked out in our lives.

It doesn't require us to find God's will but allows God's will to find us after we have completed the conditions of total commitment. The characteristics of God's will, good, acceptable, and perfect, guarantee that whatever God chooses will be for our best and pleasing to our sensibilities as we grow and understand God's ways. The perfection that will come will be that of completeness, which is a fullness of God's glory revealed in and through our lives.

We can only achieve our lives' desired outcomes by entirely resetting our minds to LOVE. When we set our minds entirely on loving God, we can experience God's greatness in and through our lives. This is possible because God has already placed His heart and mind entirely to love us. When we are in love fully, we don't seek anything but just love. We don't seek any benefit out of loving or impose our agenda on loving—just love.

Grandparents just love their grandchildren. Parents just love their children. God just loves us. That's called agape love—unconditional love. Because of this agape love, they surrender. Believe it or not, we all are the recipients of this love. Let us love God and others as God loves us by resetting our minds entirely to love today. Amen.