

## Surrender

"And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23

When God died that you may live, He did so in order to make you eligible for heaven. Because you wish to go to heaven does not necessarily mean that you wanted to make Him Lord of your life. If you do not surrender all to His Lordship, He will not accept you as one of His followers.

The missionary Hudson Taylor prayed, "God, I renounce all earthly prospects and will be utterly at your disposal. I will go anywhere, do anything, suffer whatever your cause might demand, and be wholly given to your will and service." In today's Christian environment, such an attitude is considered exceptional; few followers of Christ can with integrity say this prayer is true for them.

From a biblical perspective, however, Taylor's heart is the least common denominator for a relationship with Jesus Christ. The Savior only accepts as His own those who renounce all rights to themselves and completely surrender themselves to His leadership in their lives. If you seek to follow Him with reservations, He will reject you. None relates to God on their terms. As someone once said, "If Jesus is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all."

In what area of your life can you say "no" to God and maintain a relationship with Him? Where in the whole of the Bible can you find God saying that such a thing is possible? God does not save you and make you His because you have made Jesus Lord of all; God saves you because of the propitious death of His Son. However, if you do not make Jesus Lord of all, you cannot be saved.