



Update

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Vernon & Martha Hedge

Surrender to Win

When life hands us trying times, perhaps one of the hardest things for us to do is to *give thanks in all circumstances* (1 Thess. 5:18 ESV). How can one be thankful for the loss of a job, the death of someone we hold dear, for something like Covid-19 upending our lives?

It has to do with surrender, a word we don't often use in our culture of always wanting to win. In the Kingdom, we win by surrendering to the Lord. This can be daily, depending on the situation. In each circumstance if we make the choice to surrender that He is in control, that indeed He does love us, that although the situation is not good in itself—He promises to work it for our good. In that moment of acceptance, the Holy Spirit is released in us to be for us whatever we need. In that space, we are grateful.

It's a choice we make in faith, not in emotion. It's a personal choice I've watched Vernon make many times in this new and difficult journey of stroke recovery. He tells people, "I have learned that whatever circumstance I'm in, I must trust God with the outcome. I do what I can do and what I know to do. The rest I surrender to Him. To not surrender to His purposes—even if I don't understand them—is to resist Him. That's a form of rebellion and takes me out of flow with Him. Surrender keeps me in fellowship with Him so that I can hear Him."

Making this current, the incredible spread of Covid-19 has forced all of us into daily challenges. This truly is a war, and we've never had one inside our country. Although this is a physical virus that physicians and scientists are working around the clock to stop, there's another enemy taking advantage of its deadly damage. His goal has always been to kill, steal and destroy.

The way we battle him is still the same. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds* (2 Cor. 10:3-4 ESV). Strongholds are areas in our lives that keep us from being free. We are spirits living in bodies; what we choose affects both our physical and spiritual lives.

The strongest, best equipped and best trained soldier can turn and run, leaving a weaker foe and victory behind. That's on the battlefield. Our field of battle is against unseen powers. As born-again believers, we must connect with our Commander through prayer, our main weapon. As

warriors in the Spirit, we surrender to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Having direction, we then move with that "divine power" to bombard heaven for healing and deliverance.

Changes are happening at lightening speed all around us. There's a great deal of emotion and fear because everything seems upside down. What we are seeing is not good. But God is. At the risk of sounding trite, we can be like Peter and focus on the storm or we can focus on the One who controls the storm. God is not surprised by any of this, nor has He lost control.

Holding to that truth in faith is the kind of surrender that brings the victory of peace and thankfulness. ✨

A Milestone



Vernon reached his goals in speech therapy and has at-home exercises to help him continue to recover speech and writing. (Masks were required the last day.) A huge thanks to Staci and the other therapists. ✨