

How To Bring My Child To Surrender A Step By Step Guide

By: Sally Hohnberger

Most simply said is ... Take your child to Christ to be changed in mind and heart!

Next most simply put ... It requires ...

1. The parent is to be surrendered themselves ... That means to be ... In Christ ... Consistent ... With no variability.

2. Time with God & His instructions daily. Prayer, study & objective reasoning from cause to effect to know how to approach child training & changing with Christ.

3. Call the child to a decision to do right.

4. Making the decision with Christ.

5. Parent is to reward obedience ... And give consequences for disobedience until they surrender to Christ and do the right.

For greater detail consider the following information for help:

Principles we must first understand:

1. Unaided by God we cannot change ourselves in heart, in thoughts or feelings. Job 14:4; Jeremiah 13:23.

a. The gospel (the power) to live right ... Can not be seen unless we bring the child to Christ in order for Him to change their heart ...

- b. Unaided by God, surrender will be outward only and will not effect a change of heart.
2. Subjection (yielding/surrendering) to God is restoration to oneself. Romans 6:22; Galatians 5:1; Ephesians 1:4
- a. The Bible sums up surrender this way... "Not my will but Thine be done." Luke 22:42. Christ's example is for us and our children...this is the way.
- b. True surrender will be seen in a change of attitudes, countenances, dispositions, actions, even thoughts.
- c. Some will surrender sooner, some later. It depends upon the individual child's mind coming to the point of surrender.
- d. All children have to be convinced that ... there is no other way (Law of the Mind).
- e. This is why it requires our consistency in child rearing, rules of the house, and rules of conduct ... No variability in us ... is essential. Make no compromise with evil (selfishness). Eph. 5:11
- f. Government on the parent's part is done without the fleshly ways of harshness and anger.
3. Cooperation with Christ is man's greatest need ... Romans 8

- a. Expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself. Romans 6:13; Matthew 11:12. The child has a part to play.
 - b. Trust and obey for there is no other way ... The child must do battle with the "self" that strives to rule in him. He must choose to yield and say "no" to self and "yes" to parent/God.
4. From birth, he can learn and experience Christ through the Holy Spirit subduing self - selfishness - sin in whatever form it shows itself.
- a. The Holy Spirit communicates to the understanding of the child whatever age
 - b. Read Luke 2 and see how the Spirit communicated with John when he was in his mother's womb.
 - c. Can God communicate with my child? Of course. Will my child yield and surrender to His leading?
5. I must be **in** Christ myself before I can bring my child to Christ to be changed successfully. John 17:19.
- a. My experience + example is vitally important so I can teach them.
 - b. Our children mirror/reflect our countenance, example, surrender + Christian experience.
 - c. The parent must be continually asking Acts 9:6 ... "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" At every step of teaching, training and disciplining my child, Christ must be with me.
6. We are merely willing laborers **with** God. 1 Corinthians 3:9
- a. As He directs us to an inside work—discerning and restraining wrong thoughts, desires, feelings or dispositions and cultivating in good ones.
 - b. Or as God directs us to an outside work—correcting wrong words, countenances, actions, habits or behaviors and cultivating good ones in their place.
 - c. Our work is to cooperate with whatever God brings to our attention.
 - i. Cooperating with Him allows God to change us and our child internally and externally.
 - ii. As we **do** the right, God creates in us new dispositions, desires, thoughts, feelings which produce new behaviors.
 - iii. Our cooperation frees

God will not
do for us
what we
can do for
ourselves

God's hands to do the work which we cannot do ... change the heart.

- iv. It requires our effort in surrender, denying and controlling the wrong, as well as efforts to do the right, in order for God to apply His creative power. John 2:5.
7. Obedience is the **first** lesson.
- a. We are to teach (deal with the mind ... giving information),
 - b. We are to train (deal with the will of the child ... surrender ... seeing to it he does what he knows is right).
 - c. This lesson is the foundation of the Christian life as well as parenting.
 - d. God requires us to work in this way with our children, not expect God to do it.
8. Must understand the law of the mind—
- a. When a desired object is so firmly denied as to remove all hope, the mind will soon cease to long for it, and will be occupied in other pursuits. But as long as there is any hope of obtaining the desired object, an effort will be made to obtain it.
 - b. Their selfish will, will not yield until it is convinced ... there is no other way!
9. Must see that firmness is of God.
- a. The way of the transgressor is hard... Prov 13:15
 - b. Study to know!... Lev 26 ... Eccl 8:11 ... Prov 13:24 ... Prov 22:15 ... Prov 23:13 ... Prov 29:15
 - c. We must come to see that a balance of firmness, decision, positive requirements are essential in dealing with our children at all ages.
 - d. God will not do for us, what we can do for ourselves.
 - e. Even kindness must have its limits. Authority must be sustained by a firm severity, or it will be received by many with mockery and contempt. The so-called tenderness, the coaxing and the indulgence, used toward youth by parents and guardians is the worst evil which can come upon them. Firmness, decision, positive requirements, are essential in every family. 2 Kings 2:23, 24
 - f. Be a Berean to know the balance. See Acts 17:11.
10. If simple discipline and restraint does not work reform in our child's heart and we are prayerfully being guided by God through this process ... then we must subdue the wrong by the severest means necessary ... The parent remaining surrendered in Christ. Study the history of Eli and his sons and

learn from his mistakes. 1 Samuel 2:12-4:22

Specifics in Bringing an Unruly Child to Surrender

1st: The Parent's Surrender ...

1. First step is personal surrender of the parent to Christ. I must be in Christ, my "self" surrendered to do His way and will before I can bring my child to Christ. Am I surrendered to do whatever God asks me to do? Will I persevere to do hard things rightly, **in** Christ?

2. Disciplining ourselves to ask God ... "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" Acts 9:6 Guide my thoughts, help me be balanced in justice (firmness) and mercy (compassion). We are all unbalanced to one side or the other. Only in a surrendered position in Christ will we find the balanced approach that will bring our child to a surrender in Christ.

3. In correcting, instructing, and disciplining our child, we need divine power to attend our human efforts, because Eph 6:12 ... "we are not warring against flesh and blood but ..." Bringing my child to Christ requires effort and consistency on my part!

4. We must recognize and discern the **child is not happy when serving self** ... when having his own way ... when he's ruled, dominated and subjected to selfishness ... or when stubborn "my way" attitudes dominate. We must also recognize it usually requires motivation for self to choose to let God dethrone the "self" in them. The stronger the rule of "self" that reigns in the child, the harder and longer will be the conflict if the child becomes resistive. Remember also ... "With God all things are possible." So parent's we must get **with and in** Christ.

5. Recognize self is use to ruling in the child and youth that you are dealing with. And a call to surrender may awaken a conflict ... self will strive to remain in that ruling position to which it is accustomed. Satan will use all his sophistry to ... inspire the child to justify himself wrongly ... or stubbornly persist in his way ... or argue unreasonably with you.

6. Your child's need is to experience Christ ... to have his self subdued ... he needs experience putting his will on Christ's side ... and Christ transforming his feelings, thoughts, desires and finding joy in obedience through Christ. Often the child clings tenaciously and

unwisely to old ways, thoughts and feelings, they are strangely comfortable to him. They are familiar with the reign of selfishness, they need to experience the other side.

7. To know one's self is a great knowledge. Will we take them to Christ?

8. Are you surrendered to see this battle small or great, through to the end, surrendering continually to Christ yourself? Leaving off harshness and anger by grace ruling in you?

2nd: The Child's Surrender ...

1. The parent calls the child to surrender ... tell him he has done wrong ... speak specifically and briefly that they see and understand what you expect of them. (Like ... you may not cry).

2. The parent tells the child simply what he is to do instead. (Like ... you can choose to be happy).

3. The parent encourages them that through Christ they can obey and do right. They have a choice ... Lets go to Jesus, your best friend, so He can help you ... I love you too much to let you disobey ... (Like ... **you can** choose to stop crying

and be happy with Jesus).

4. This calls the child to a decision ... its a call to self-denial + self-control ... To obey he must **strive** to stop crying ... his cooperation is essential ... Jesus will change you if you trust and obey. ... If he does not choose to stop ... he'll argue ... excuse self ... etc. Parents - he has chosen! ... **Not to decide is to decide.**

5. Lord what would thou have me to do? Both you and the child need to develop this habit of filtering all through Christ to know what he'd have you to do, now. Anything short of this is independence from God ... and is destine to failure.

6. Take the child to prayer ... Assure him of his need of a connection with Christ ... of cooperating with Christ in doing the right ... God cannot and will not do for us, what we can do of ourselves ... This is not comfortable or welcomed to the child's flesh or thoughts where they are crossed ... Expect resistance but then cry out to God to lead you in the battle that will ensue whether easy or hard. God will direct the battle to victory ... if you let Him lead!

7. Once the child understands what you expect from him the following **4 step sequence** should be repeated

Lord,
what
would Thou
have me to
do?

until surrender is gained with Christ. **1** - Bring him to a decision. **2** - Observe his demeanor, countenance, disposition, or reaction ... you must make a judgment, a decision aided with Christ ... what should I do next Lord? **3** - Whether its ... prayer as the next step ... a need for a physical consequence of work ... time alone ... a spanking ... encouragement to choose ... appropriate praise ... as God leads you through your conscience and reason. God knows what will effect a surrender to you. Inquire of God. **4** - Now a reward for his choice of obedience (praise, special reward of time with mother doing some little task together etc) ... or ... a consequence, in place of a reward, for disobedience. Remember the way of the transgressor is hard! Are we teaching our child that this is so in their life? It is our duty to teach and train our child that there are consequences to doing or choosing evil (getting our own way against God/parent's known will and way).

8. Surrender to us must be trained, in order for them to understand the way to surrender to Christ as a Christian must. Didn't Christ's life demonstrate a life of surrender to His Heavenly Father's way and will? ... Our child must learn he can give his wrong feelings, thoughts, inclinations and selfish ways or want to God and God will effect a change in their hearts, feelings and desires ... only when the child himself consents and cooperates in doing right. Otherwise it won't change ... They must come to see ... **there is always a cost to sin and selfishness** ... it always has a price!

9. Once surrender is achieved here. The child must go and do the right over the wrong way that brought you to this corrective procedure. For example ... he washes the dishes cheerfully and thoroughly ... He speaks a kind word to the sibling he sassed to before ... She apologizes to the sibling she hit and now she serves that sibling by doing cheerfully one of his chores, or some other kind act of service ... Getting them to act out the right in the place of the wrong way, you are developing right habits to replace the evil, selfish habits. **Rom 12:21**. And God always blesses right doing as it is In Jesus.

Summary Simply Said ... Again a Little Different

1. Call to decision
2. Reasonable time to make a decision ... Too long and too short strengthens rebellion.
3. Take them to God. Surrender their will's to God in their stead as their parent/guardian. Then take the child to prayer and with them ... have them speak their

sin to God (confession) ...do this simply and briefly ... then ask God for grace to help them choose and do right ... Now they have to get up and do the right. Actions follow decisions.

4. Encourage right choices. Remind them of the cost of sin ... the joy of obedience.

5. Reward right ... or ... give appropriate consequences for wrong.

6. If the child persists in disobedience ... if he lacks surrender ... is resentful under restraint after the consequence is given ... Then repeat this sequence ... **until** ... surrender is effected with Christ. Christ will be evident if He was allowed in the child's heart, in his disposition.

7. When surrender has been accomplished ... Make them aware of the happy heart they now have ... give God the credit for the miracle. Sooner or later that day, as God directs you ... bring home the lesson of the joy of obedience and the misery of disobedience. The heaviness of consequences is a consequence of their unwillingness to surrender. How much easier it would be to do right rather than persist stubbornly in selfishness. Make them aware that Satan is controlling them when in disobedience ... and Satan's rule is heavy and hurtful to everyone. God will instruct you parent, when you have learned to be sensitive to those holy influences leading you. My sheep hear my voice ... **John 10:3-5,16**.

God bless you and lead you, as you bring your children to Christ to be changed!

Power for Living



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