## The Journey to the Point of Surrender

Getting to the point of total surrender to Father (or to King Jesus) is a process. That's what happened to me over a period of years. It wasn't something that I achieved through my own determination. I tried doing that, but nothing happened spiritually. All that it achieved was to make me more religious and legalistic, because that was all I knew would please him. I was ignorant of Kingdom/spiritual realities because I lacked the knowledge – that's despite being Baptised in the Holy Spirit.

For me to get to the point of total surrender, it was a work of Father in me. I didn't do, he did. All that I did was to follow his lead, and all of a sudden I was there. I remember it very clearly. I'd followed Father's direction and visited friends in Thailand who ran community homes for dispossessed Lahu people<sup>1</sup> who fled from extermination in Myanmar (Burma). I arrived back home and within me I had overwhelming surrender, something that I didn't generate. It was so strong. I told Father that I was prepared to do whatever he told me – anything. I was so committed, that I was prepared to pack a bag of essentials, leave my home and family, and go where he directed me. I waited for him to get me to do that, but I wasn't sent anywhere. Instead, it was the beginning of my intense transformation into being a genuine son of the Kingdom.

Everything I've gone through in the years since then has been an outworking of my full surrender to him. Because it was a 'no holds barred' commitment, it was real and was exactly what Father wanted so he could do the work in me that was needed. Note, however, that it wasn't something that I made myself do. It just came on me as I was on my journey back home to Canberra, and it came out of obedience to go to Thailand, which was on top of my complete trust in Father.

What happened to me is what I've since termed Father's process of drawing us in to something. It's a manifestation of his unconditional love, his grace, his acceptance of us as we are, and his honouring of our autonomy as his imagers<sup>3</sup> to be in charge of our own lives. His love doesn't force anything, but instead it draws lovingly so that we get to a point of acceptance without any pressure. It's the same facet of his love (and our King's love) that woos us into intimacy and oneness.

I'm not alone in this experience. Mike Parsons has been through it as well. For him, it all began when he chose not to let himself get in the way of his intimate relationship with Father. That's when everything changed for him.4

Here are some of his experiences which mirror mine:

"You can't make it happen. You can choose, you can decide and desire, let's say, "I want to surrender. I want to have nothing which is hindering my relationship with God", but you've got to let him take you through the process. I don't think you can force the process... Now I look back and I realize I've gone through a garden experience of intimacy, then I went through a dance floor process of coming into a revelation of more of my destiny. Then I went through a soaking room process, which is what this process of surrender was, where I was in a sense softened up, got ready for the ongoing process of that going into deeper. And I went into the marriage with God, in the bridal chamber of intimacy, in which I went deeper and deeper into that revelation of intimacy by experience. I just let him take me on the journey, lead the way, show me, give me the experiences, embrace the experiences, let the experience change me. I didn't fight it. I didn't resist it. I just allowed it, because I trusted the Father implicitly through that process, and it's an ongoing process.'5

I went through soaking, flag waving and dance, which led me into a love relationship as a son, and out of a servant relationship.

<sup>1 –</sup> en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahu people

<sup>2 –</sup> Without reservation <a href="www.wordnik.com/words/no%20holds%20barred">www.wordnik.com/words/no%20holds%20barred</a>

<sup>3 –</sup> Those created in his image to oversee the affairs of Earth for him

<sup>4 –</sup> TRANSCRIPT: Mike Parsons "Surrender Part 2" <u>youtu.be/RxIfNSoyd w</u> [0:10-0:23] 5 – TRANSCRIPT: Mike Parsons "Surrender Part 2" <u>youtu.be/RxIfNSoyd w</u> [1:42-3:05]

The important outworking of my surrender has been that it's what has allowed me to trust Father so that he can deprogram and reprogram me, deconstruct and retrain me. Without complete surrender, I would've baulked at having my total belief system turned upside down. Otherwise, I'm sure my religious and legalistic training would have put up strong defences, but they never did.

Mike Parsons was also able to go through the same processes because he was drawn into full surrender.

"But it is a process, you know. I went through deconstruction of my mind, deconstruction of my beliefs. All sorts of things happened when I surrendered. I don't think those things would have happened had I not surrendered because I wouldn't have trusted God in the way I did. When I didn't understand, going through deconstruction is quite a major process and when all your beliefs and everything you held onto are all being deconstructed, it's like, "What do I believe? Who really am I?" Then you need to trust God and I trusted him implicitly to allow him to take me through those ongoing processes that would continue to bring me into maturity."6

(Permission to quote Mike Parsons received on 20-7-2020)

To hear him speak on the topic of surrender, watch these very short teachings:

VIDEO: Mike Parsons "Surrender Part 1" youtu.be/NVB5 HaVedE VIDEO: Mike Parsons "Surrender Part 2" youtu.be/RxIfNSoyd w

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<sup>6 –</sup> TRANSCRIPT: Mike Parsons "Surrender Part 2" youtu.be/RxIfNSoyd w [1:00-1:42]