

In making a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him, begins a lifelong journey of spiritual discovery and growth. This is a perfect way to start, because it is totally without any catches.

Through this time, we begin to explore our faith and what we really believe. We start to learn that true growth in this journey, can only happen with true surrender by developing a relationship with God. We need to get to know Him.

In Jesus Christ our journey truly begins (John 1:12 NIV *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God”*). We begin to learn that through Jesus, the Son, a door is opened to God, the Father. We now have a

direct route to God. We experience how much God loves us by His grace and mercy continually shining upon us (Ephesians 2:8 ESV *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...”*)

However, as we continue in our spiritual journey, we must not allow complacency to creep in. The God of our understanding can easily become the God of our convenience. We cannot look at God’s grace and mercy as a simple “get out of jail free” card that we can use at will with no ramifications.

When we surrender our will over to God, steps of faith are desperately needed to make it happen; thus, allowing us to step aside and let God make the changes within us. In **Romans 6:15-16 NLT** it reads,

“15 Well then, since God’s grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! 16 Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.”

In other words, our actions are still going to determine the course we follow. When we lead with God’s will in our lives, His grace and mercy become “tools of empowerment”, not a “get out of jail free” card. When we live in obedience through surrendering to God’s will in our lives, we no longer are held down by the bondage of sin. We develop a better understanding of who God is in our lives and the freedom He provides.