

“All In!”
Believe: What Shall I Do? — Part 5
Romans 12:1

**What we believe in our hearts will define
how we live and who we become.**

Key idea:
“I dedicate my life to God’s purposes!”
Easy to say...hard to do.

Key verse:
Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of *God's* mercy, to offer your *bodies* as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to *God*—this is your spiritual act of worship.
Romans 12:1

Single-mindedness and Total surrender:
If single-mindedness is pursuing God’s will,
total surrender is doing God’s will.

1. God is totally devoted to you. (in view of *God's* mercy)

For *God* so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

This is love: not that we loved *God*, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 *John* 4:10

Be imitators of *God*, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as *Christ* loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to *God*.
Ephesians 5:1-2

2. God asks us to live as an offering. (offer your *bodies* as living sacrifices)

Then *Jesus* said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"
Matthew 16:24-26

Now *Stephen*, a man full of *God's* grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—*Jews* of *Cyrene* and *Alexandria* as well as the provinces of *Cilicia* and *Asia*. These men began to argue with *Stephen*, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke...When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But *Stephen*, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of *God*, and *Jesus* standing at the right hand of *God*. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of *God*." At

this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 6:8-10 and 7:54-60

**Key question:
Can I give myself as an offering
out of my love for God?**

3. True worship is generously giving ourselves to God's purposes.

(this is your spiritual act of worship)

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:12-21

The Surrender Journey

But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

Luke 22:33

..."Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

Luke 22:48-50

..."Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:59-62

..."Do you love me?" ... He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

John 21:17

How do I surrender?

1. **Realize that you are not in control.**

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.

James 4:13-16

***"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep
to gain what he cannot lose."***

Jim Elliott—Missionary

3. **Obey the Master**

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Luke 6:46

***"The world has yet to see what God can do
with the man totally dedicated to Him.
By the grace of God I'll be that man."***

Dwight L. Moody—Evangelist