



Positioned to Receive: Surrendering in Faith

True faith requires an open hand. We often pray for God's guidance and blessings while tightly clutching our own timelines, expectations, and fallback plans. Surrender is not passive resignation; it is an active realignment of the heart that says, *"Not my will, but Yours."*

This 10-question discipleship study examines how we can tear down self-reliance, confront underlying fears, and properly position ourselves to step into what God has prepared.

Part 1: Confronting Control and Self-Reliance

1. What are your hands still closed around?

- **Core Truth:** Holding tightly to an outcome is often a subtle attempt to play God. True surrender means releasing both the outcome and the path to get there.
- **Reflection & Action:** Look honestly at your current concerns (finances, relationships, health, direction). Where are you managing the outcome rather than entrusting it to the Father? Write down what you need to actively release.

2. Where are you relying on your own understanding?

- **Core Truth:** Scripture explicitly warns against resting on human intellect or immediate sight (Proverbs 3:5–6).
- **Reflection & Action:** In what area of your life does God's instruction seem counterintuitive or illogical? What would it look like this week to obey despite not seeing the full picture?

3. What fear is masquerading as "prudence"?

- **Core Truth:** Wise planning honors God, but self-preservation driven by fear prevents bold faith.
- **Reflection & Action:** Are you hesitating to move forward because God hasn't spoken, or because you are afraid of failure, loss, or discomfort?



Part 2: Purifying Motives and Clearing Space

4. Are you seeking God's presence or merely His gifts?

- **Core Truth:** God promises that when we seek His Kingdom and His righteousness first, our needs are met (Matthew 6:33).
- **Reflection & Action:** If God chose to withhold the specific breakthrough you are asking for, would He still be enough for you? How can your prayer focus shift from the blessing to the Blesser?

5. What needs to be pruned to make room for new growth?

- **Core Truth:** In John 15, the Vinedresser prunes fruitful branches so they may bear even more fruit. A vessel already full cannot receive anything new.
- **Reflection & Action:** What habits, commitments, mindsets, or relationships are taking up space in your schedule or heart that God is asking you to lay down?

6. Is there unconfessed sin or bitterness blocking your spiritual posture?

- **Core Truth:** Scripture teaches that unforgiveness and harboring sin disrupt our fellowship with God and dull our spiritual sensitivity.
- **Reflection & Action:** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any resentment, grievance, or hidden compromise. Who do you need to forgive today so your heart is clear to receive?

Part 3: Active Posture and Bold Expectation

7. How are you actively preparing your "ditches"?

- **Core Truth:** In 2 Kings 3, the prophet tells the army to dig trenches in the dry valley before any rain is visible. Faith acts in anticipation of God's movement.
- **Reflection & Action:** If you genuinely believe God is preparing to work in a specific area, what practical, physical preparation should you be doing right now?

8. What does your self-talk sound like when God remains silent?

- **Core Truth:** Waiting is active discipleship. Abraham, Joseph, and David spent years in the gap between the promise and the fulfillment.

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- **Reflection & Action:** When there is no visible progress, do you rehearse God's past faithfulness, or do you entertain doubt and cynicism? What truth can you speak over your waiting season?

9. Who is speaking into your faith atmosphere?

- **Core Truth:** Faith is contagious, but so is unbelief. In the wilderness, an entire generation missed their promised inheritance because they listened to reports of fear.
- **Reflection & Action:** Are the people closest to you helping you fix your eyes on God's power, or are they reinforcing worldly doubt? Where do you need wiser counsel?

10. Are you ready to say "Yes" before you hear the terms?

- **Core Truth:** True discipleship offers a blank check. Mary's posture was, *"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38).
- **Reflection & Action:** Can you pray right now: *"Lord, whatever You ask, wherever You lead, whatever the cost, the answer is already yes"*?

Group Discussion or Personal Action Step

Take 10 minutes of quiet silence. Open both hands physically on your lap, palms facing up, as an outward sign of an inward reality. Surrender your three biggest burdens by name, and invite God to fill that space with His purpose and peace.