

All to Jesus, I surrender,
Ev'ry burden, ev'ry care.
At Your feet, I leave my striving,
Finding peace and mercy there.

These words have echoed through my life since I first sensed God's call as a young person. Long before I fully understood the weight of that calling, I knew it required everything from me. Not just moments of devotion, but a life laid down—to include dreams, plans, and even the unknown future—placed into His hands.

Now, after more than 44 years as a minister/officer with The Salvation Army, I can say with quiet certainty that surrender is not a single act, but a daily choice. In the early days, surrender felt bold and decisive—stepping forward, answering God's call, trusting Him to lead. There was a sense of adventure to saying "yes" without fully knowing where that yes would take me over the years.

Over time, I've learned that surrender deepens. It meets you in the burdens and responsibilities—in the people you serve, the sorrows you carry alongside others, and the quiet faithfulness required when the path is not easy. "At Your feet, I leave my striving" becomes more than words; it becomes survival, renewal, and a sense of peace.

There have been seasons of great joy in my life—walking alongside people in ministry, witnessing God's grace at work in only ways He can orchestrate. There have been weary seasons where surrender meant leaning on Him when I had little strength left. Through it all, His mercy has been steady, and His faithfulness unshaken. Today I can say with confidence that surrendering all to Him is not losing oneself but being found more fully in Him. It is discovering that His plans are kinder, His purposes are greater, and His presence is nearer than I could ever have imagined. Even now, my prayer remains the same as it was at the beginning: "Take my heart and shape my future... let my will be lost in Thine." And in that I surrender, I have found peace.

A fitting Scripture that beautifully echoes my lifelong surrender is found in Romans 12:1 *NIV* which says:

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."