

Father, use my life to your glory.

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I have preached in one prayer group in New York City for quite a few years now. The man that leads the worship often will pray a prayer of surrender during the spontaneous worship and prayer in between songs. The first time that I heard Gerard ask the group to pray the prayer, it quickened in my heart. It is one of those things that just “sticks,” it resonated within me. I have since made this prayer one of the things that I often pray. The prayer is simple: “Father, I give you everything that I am, everything that I hope to become, and everything that I wish that I was not.”

The things that really work for me in my walk with the Lord are the simple things. Jesus said: “I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10) To receive the abundant life that Jesus spoke of, we simply need to make a decision of our will to open to God’s grace and power. This simple prayer does just that; it is a way to give God permission to use your life. Have you given God permission to use your life to his glory? God will make something wonderful out of your life. Your life will be the most beautiful that it can be in the perfect will of God. He will bless you abundantly; he will use you to build his Kingdom. Give him permission. God’s grace and power will do the rest.

Everything that I am...

The words that come to me most often when I pray this prayer are: “Father, I take my life and I lay it before your throne. I give you everything that I am...” With that prayer I surrender my life in its current state before the sovereignty of God. I give God my marriage, our family and our ministry. I give God all of my abilities and accomplishments. I give God everything that I possess in this world. Everything that I am and that I possess has come from God. I give it all back and lay it before his throne. I give God permission to take away anything that is not in his perfect will. I ask God to give me the things that I lack.

Everything that I hope to become...

This simple phrase is a way to entrust God with your future. It is a simplified way of saying: “Father, I entrust my future to you. I give you every hope and dream that I hold in my heart. I give you every aspiration that I have for my marriage, my family, my ministry (or business). I give you everything that I hoped to accomplish with my life. Father I trust you will care for me in the days to come.

Again, as I lay it all before the throne of God, I ask God to take away the things that are imperfect and to give me the things that I lack in this area. It is my desire that the perfect will of God will be accomplished in my life. I ask God to help me to see clearly what is his perfect will and what is merely the desire of my flesh. I choose to allow the grace and power of God to transform me so that I can clearly see his perfect will for my life. I ask God to give me a zeal for the purposes that he has given to my life, for his desires to be what would burn in my heart. God honors this prayer and makes his perfect will to be the desire of my heart: “Find your delight in the Lord who will give you your heart’s desire. Commit your way to the Lord; trust that God will act.” (Psalm 37:4-5)

Everything that I wish that I was not...

Entrusting your life to God is very simple and practical. On a practical level, the only time that you have to give your life to God is right now. Don’t delay, waiting until you overcome certain sins and problems, lay your life before God with all of its wrinkles and blemishes. Telling God that you give him “everything that I wish that I was not” is a way of saying: “Father, there are things in my life that I wish that were different: problems, mistakes, sins, sickness, and failures. But I come just as I am and I give you all of my life, including the things that aren’t pretty.” Turning these areas of your life over to God is often the key to transformation. Recognize that God never expects that you would transform the ugly parts of your life with your own cleverness, determination and will power. God wants to be your helper in all of these areas. Repent of sin and come to Reconciliation. Ask God’s grace and power to transform the difficult parts of your life.

Use me to your glory...

This simple prayer is of practical benefit to every Christian. Remember, it is not the wording but the principle that is important. Use whatever words come naturally to you to surrender your life to God’s loving care. The one that loves you with “an everlasting love” (Cf. Jeremiah 31:3) will care for you and lead you in your life. If you give God permission to use you, and surrender every area of your life, God will do something great with your life: “Not that of ourselves we are qualified to take credit for anything as coming from us; rather, our qualification comes from God, who has indeed qualified us as ministers of a new covenant..” (1 Corinthians 3:5-6a)