

DAY 8: MONDAY, JANUARY 13

I FREELY AND FULLY SURRENDER ALL THINGS TO YOUR GLORY AND SERVICE

The beauty of prayer and fasting is that these spiritual practices teach us to let go of our need to control our lives. They invite us to receive the wonderful truth that our life is not our own. In our human nature, we usually think independence is the kind of freedom that brings life. Fasting and other forms of self-discipline quickly teach us that relying on our individual abilities alone won't get us very far.

Romans 6:13b-14 (CSB) tells us: "But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness. For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under the law but under grace."

Freedom is the ability to entrust ourselves to the God of the Universe and know He will not fail. Feeling our fragility in fasting drives us to our knees in desperation for God to do MORE and BETTER with our lives than we ever could on our own. In the hands of a mighty God, we can be weapons of righteousness. Fully known. Deeply loved. Extravagantly cared for. Ruled by grace. Real freedom is a life ruled by grace. Are you experiencing the abundant life that comes through surrendering yourself to God?

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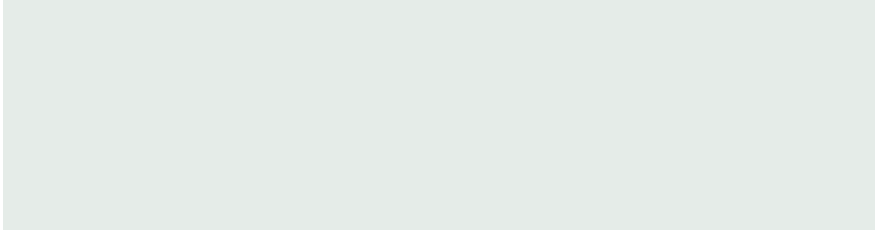
PAUSE

Try this breath prayer:

Lord, you reign over all things (*inhale*). I offer myself to You (*exhale*).

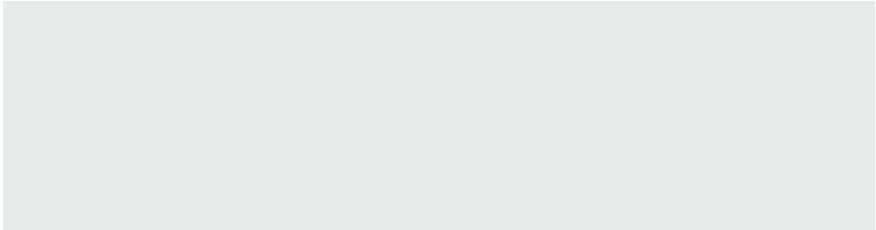
REJOICE

Can you look back on any areas of your life and see where God's way brought more freedom and life than yours? Thank God for His good authority over your life and over all of Creation.



ASK

Where might you "Deploy on Mission" if you fully surrendered your life to God's glory and service? Ask God what He might like to do in and through your life to build His Kingdom.



YIELD

Has this period of fasting/praying revealed any area where you want to "do it all yourself" and are coming up short? Thank God for being the only King worth following. Remind yourself that nothing you face is beyond His grasp. Tell God again that you freely and fully surrender your life to Him.

