

The Path of Surrender

Learning to Yield Without Fear

Word of God

Genesis 12:1–9

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” God promised to make him a great nation, to bless him, to make his name great, and to bless all families of the earth through him. So Abram went, as the Lord had told him. He journeyed through the land of Canaan, built altars to the Lord, and called upon His name. Everywhere Abram walked, he walked in surrender — trusting the God who called him out of the familiar and into the unknown.

Psalms 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.
The Lord is your keeper. The Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

Paul writes that Abraham was not justified by works, but by faith — the faith that trusts the promises of God. David speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works, whose sins are forgiven and covered. The promise came through righteousness of faith, not the law, so that it may rest on grace. Abraham believed the God who “gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not

exist,” and through such faith he became the father of many nations.

John 3:1–17

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, seeking understanding. Jesus told him that no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again — born of water and the Spirit. The Spirit moves as the wind moves, unseen yet undeniable. Jesus spoke of heavenly things, of God’s love for the world, and of the Son lifted up for our salvation. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but to save it.

Reflection in the Field

There is a moment in working with a horse when she decides to yield — not from fear, and not from defeat, but from trust. Her head lowers, her breathing softens, and her body releases tension she no longer needs to carry. This surrender is not weakness. It is willingness. It is the beginning of partnership.

Abraham’s journey in Genesis echoes this sacred posture. He leaves behind everything familiar — his land, his kin, his father’s house — not because he is strong, but because he trusts the One who calls. Every step Abraham takes is an act of yielding: yielding safety, yielding control, yielding certainty. But in that yielding, he discovers God’s faithfulness.

Horses teach us this truth. When we approach with gentleness and clarity, they yield into relationship — not because they must, but because they trust.

Lent invites us into similar surrender. Not the kind that strips us of dignity, but the kind that leads us into deeper relationship with Christ. Nicodemus comes to Jesus in the darkness of night, clinging to what he knows. Jesus invites him into something new — a rebirth, a Spirit-led life he cannot control but can receive.

Faith is surrender. Surrender is trust. And trust is where transformation begins. In the pasture beside the horse, we learn that surrender is not giving up — it is giving over to the God who keeps our life and guides our going out and coming in forevermore.

Lutheran Reflection

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times.”

— Martin Luther, Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (1522)

Reflection Prompts

1. Where is Christ calling you out of the familiar and into trust?
2. When have you experienced a horse yielding from trust rather than fear?
3. What part of your life feels like Nicodemus — approaching Jesus in the dark with questions?
4. What would it look like to surrender one area of control to Christ this week?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Teach me the surrender that leads to freedom. Help me to yield as the horse yields — trusting Your presence, Your gentleness, and Your care. Lead me into the unknown with Abraham’s faith and Nicodemus’s longing for truth. Make my life a quiet testimony to Your grace at work within me. Amen.

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
(Numbers 6:24–26, ESV)*