


# I Surrender All

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Miriam-Webster defines the verb surrender like this: "to yield to the power, control, or possession of another upon compulsion or demand." Well, who really wants to do that? To surrender is to give up something that we like to control ourselves. In life we are taught that surrender is not an option. We are strong. We fight until the finish. The game isn't over until it is over. We leave it all on the field. We don't quit. We don't lay down. We don't give up. We don't give in. We hold our ground. Could there be something worth our total surrender? The Bible says so.

The apostle Paul was a hard-working religious zealot with a sharp resume. He then met Christ and surrendered it all. In Philippians 3:7-11, he wrote that all of his accomplishments were as "rubbish" compared to knowing Christ and attaining the gift of eternal life!

The life of William Borden was a life of surrender. He was born the fourth child born to William (Sr.) and Mary Borden of Chicago in 1887. William had what many spend their lives chasing. He was extremely wealthy, he was well educated and had the opportunity to spend a year traveling the world. Yet it was on that trip that the Lord gave William a heart for the lost in our world. He returned home with a desire to serve as a missionary with the China Inland Mission, specifically to reach Chinese Muslims. He pursued his calling and walked away from a life of privilege to take the gospel to the unreached. On his way to Asia, he stopped in Africa to learn Arabic. He would only spend one year in Cairo, but in that short time he studied Arabic and mobilized believers to canvass neighborhoods and evangelize the city. He suddenly contracted meningitis and within two weeks, he died. He was only 25 years old.

His life motto was, "No reserves. No retreat. No regret." William Borden surrendered all. The eternal impact of his life may never be fully known on this side of heaven but his life demonstrates his treasure was not in the things of earth but in the surrendering of those things for the sake of Christ. What does the next step of surrender look like for you?