



“Take My Life, and Let It Be” Making It Personal Questions

by Nancy Leigh DeMoss

In 1874, when she was just twenty-eight years old, Frances Ridley Havergal penned a hymn that has become a beloved treasure of the church—“Take My Life, and Let It Be.” Written as a prayer, each line focuses on one dimension of what it means to be fully surrendered to Christ. Like Jesus’ words in Luke 14, Frances Havergal’s words answer the question: *What does a surrendered life look like?*

The following questions are intended to help personalize and apply this wonderful text. I would encourage you not to skim through these questions, but to set aside some time for thoughtful, prayerful reflection and response.

My life

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

- Have I ever consciously acknowledged Christ’s ownership of my life?
- Have I made a volitional, unconditional, lifetime surrender of my life to Christ?
- Am I seeking to live out that surrender on a daily basis?
- Are there any “compartments” of my life over which I am reserving the right to exercise control?

My time

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- Do I live with the conscious realization that all my time belongs to God, or have I merely reserved a portion of my time for the spiritual “category” of my life?
- Am I living each day in the light of eternity?
- Am I purposeful and intentional in my use of time, seeking to invest the moments of my days in ways that will bring glory to God?
- Do I seek His direction as to how I should use my “free time”?
- Am I squandering time with meaningless, useless conversation or entertainment?
- Do I set apart time each day for worship, prayer, and personal devotion?
- Do I readily respond to opportunities to serve others, even if it requires sacrificing “my” time?
- Do I become resentful or impatient when others interrupt my schedule or when I am faced with unplanned demands on my time?
- Do I view my job as an opportunity to serve Christ and bring glory to God?
- Have I considered any possible vocational change the Lord may want me to make, to devote more time to the advancement of His Kingdom?

My body

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

- Am I yielding the members (parts) of my body to God as instruments of righteousness (Romans 6:13)?
- Do I use the members of my body to express the kindness and love of Christ to others (e.g., using my hands for serving, for gentle touch)?
- Are any of the members of my body—eyes, ears, hands, feet, mouth—being used to sin against God (e.g., stealing, lying, listening to or repeating gossip, inflicting physical harm on mate or children, listening to profanity, viewing pornography, sexual sin)?
- Do I treat my body as if it were the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)?

- Am I abusing my body in any way (e.g., with food, alcohol, illegal or prescription drugs)?
- Am I willing to be physically spent in serving God and others?
- Have I relinquished the right to have a healthy body? Would I accept and embrace physical illness if that would bring glory to God?
- Am I submissive to God in relation to what (and how much) I eat and drink, and how much and when I sleep?
- Am I morally pure—what I see, what I think, what I do, where I go, what I listen to, what I say?

My tongue

Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.

- Do the words that come out of my mouth reveal that my lips and tongue are fully surrendered to God?
- Do I habitually verbalize the goodness and greatness of God?
- Do I regularly ask the Lord to guard my tongue?
- Before I speak, do I ask the Lord what He wants me to say?
- Am I filling my mind and heart with the Word of God, so that what comes out of my mouth will be “messages from Him”?
- Do I speak words that are critical, unkind, untrue, self-centered, rude, profane, or unnecessary?
- Do I look for and take advantage of opportunities to give a verbal witness for Christ?
- Do I intentionally use my tongue to edify and encourage others in their walk with God?

My possessions

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

- Do I treat any of my possessions as if they were mine rather than God’s?
- Do I give generously, sacrificially, and gladly to the Lord’s work and to others in need?
- Do I own anything that I would not be willing to part with if God were to take it from me or ask me to give it to another?

- Am I a wise steward of the material resources God has entrusted to me?
- Do I view God as my Provider and the source of all my material possessions?
- Am I content with the material resources God has given me? If God should choose not to give me one thing more than what I already have, would I be satisfied with His provision?
- Do I give my tithes and offerings to the Lord before I pay my bills or spend my income?
- Do I become angry or upset if others are careless with “my” possessions?

My mind

Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose.

- Am I bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5)?
- Am I disciplining my mind to get to know God and His Word better?
- Am I wasting my mind on worldly knowledge or pursuits that do not have eternal, spiritual value?
- Do I habitually think about things that are “just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy” (see Philippians 4:8), rather than things that are unwholesome, negative, impure, or vain?
- Am I guarding the entrance of my mind from impure influences (e.g., books, magazines, movies, music, conversations)?
- Am I devoting my mental capacity to serving Christ and furthering His Kingdom?

My will

Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.

- Do I consistently seek to know and to do the will of God in the practical, daily matters of life?
- When I read the Word of God (or hear it proclaimed), am I quick to say “Yes, Lord” and to do what it says?
- Is there anything God has shown me to be His will that I have been neglecting or refusing to obey?

- Is there anything I know God wants me to do that I have not done/am not doing?
- Do I become resentful when things don't go my way? Do I have to have the last word in disagreements?
- Am I stubborn? Demanding? Controlling?
- Am I quick to respond in confession and repentance when the Holy Spirit convicts me of sin?
- Am I submissive to the human authorities God has placed over me (civil, church, home, work)?

My affections

Take my heart; it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.

- Am I moody? Temperamental? Hard to please?
- Do I love Christ and His kingdom, more than this earth and its pleasures? Is there anything or anyone that I am more devoted to than Christ?
- Am I allowing Christ to reign and rule over my affections, my emotions, and my responses?
- Am I easily angered or provoked?
- Am I allowing anyone or anything other than Christ to control my emotions and responses?
- Are my desires, appetites, and longings under Christ's control?
- Am I in bondage to any earthly, fleshly, or sinful desires or appetites? Am I indulging or making provision for my fleshly desires (Romans 13:14)?
- Do I trust God's right to rule over the circumstances of my life?

My relationships

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.

- Is it my desire and intent to love God with all my heart, above all earthly relationships? Do I enjoy and seek out the friendship of God as much as I do human friendships?
- Do I love God more than I love myself? Do I seek His interests, His reputation, and His pleasure above my own?

- Have I surrendered to God all my desires, rights, and expectations regarding my family?
- Am I willing to let God decide whether I am to be married and to whom?
- Have I surrendered the right to have a loving, godly mate?
- Am I willing to love my mate in a Christ-like way, regardless of whether or not that love is reciprocated?
- Have I accepted God's decision to grant or withhold the blessing of children?
- Have I released my children to the Lord? Am I trying to control their lives? Am I willing for Him to call them and use them in His service—anywhere, in any way, regardless of the cost?
- Is there anyone that I “love” in a way that is not pure? Am I holding on to any friendships or relationships that God wants me to relinquish?
- Am I willing to sacrifice friendships, if necessary, in order to obey God and His call in my life?
- Am I willing to speak the truth in love to others about their spiritual condition, even if it means risking losing the relationship or my reputation?

Myself

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

- Have I surrendered all that I am and all that I have to God?
- Is there any part of myself—my plans, relationships, possessions, emotions, career, future—that I am knowingly holding back from God?
- Have I settled the issue that the ultimate purpose of my life is to please God and bring Him glory?
- Is it the intent of my heart, by His grace, to live the rest of my life wholly for Him and for His pleasure, rather than for myself and my pleasure?

Making it even more personal . . .

You may have expressed your desire to be fully surrendered to God many times before. Or you may just now be recognizing what it means to be totally surrendered to Him. Regardless,

would you stop—right now, if possible—and slip to your knees before the Lord and pray, *Oh Lord, afresh this moment, I surrender every part of my being—all I am and all I have—to You.*

As you pray these next words, visualize the place where you are kneeling as an altar of sacrifice, and picture each part of yourself being offered up to God as a living sacrifice: *I consecrate to You my life . . . my time . . . my body . . . my tongue . . . my possessions . . . my mind . . . my will . . . my affections . . . my relationships . . . myself. Take me, have me, do with me as You please. I am Yours for this moment and forever. Please work out that surrender in my life—every day, in every matter, until I bow before You in eternity. Amen.*