**Series: BELIEVE**

**Today: Total Surrender**

**Speaker: Ronnie Norman, Senior Minister**

**Key Idea: I dedicate my life to God’s purposes.**

1. **Three Inspiring Examples of Total Surrender**
2. Mary

**St. Augustine**

“Indeed the blessed Mary certainly did the Father’s will, and so it was for her a greater thing to have been Christ’s disciple than to have been his mother, and she was more blessed in her discipleship than in her motherhood. Hers was the happiness of first bearing in her womb him whom she would obey as her master.”

***Luke 1***

***26****In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,* ***27****to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.* ***28****The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”*

***29****Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.* ***30****But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.* ***31****You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.* ***32****He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,* ***33****and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”*

***34****“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”*

***35****The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.* ***36****Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.* ***37****For no word from God will ever fail.*

***38****“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”*

**St Gregory of Nyssa**

“What was achieved in the body of Mary will happen in the soul of everyone who receives the Word.”

1. Joseph

***Matthew 1:18-25***

*18This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

*20But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*

*22All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*

*24When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

1. Jesus

***Mark 14:36 NLT***

*Father, everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine.*

2. Surrendering Your Life Means:

1. Following God's lead without agreeing.
2. Waiting for God's timing without knowing when.
3. Expecting God’s provision without knowing how.

***2 Corinthians 1:9***

*Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.*

1. Trusting God's purpose without full understanding.

***Daniel 3:17-18***

 *17If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. 18But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”*

**IMAGE OF A WHITE FLAG – THE SIGNAL OF SURRENDER – please find**