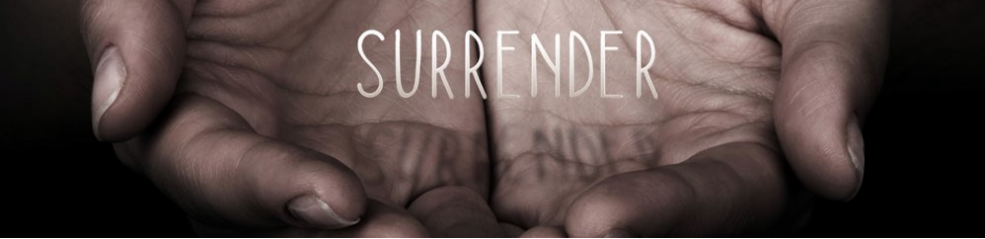


Message Notes:

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Open Your Hands - Elliot Edwards **September 27, 2020**

Open Your Hands: Surrender Your Wants

***Philippians 2:5-8** You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. (NLT)*

Two Reasons We Don’t Open Our Hands

- 1. Arrogance**
- 2. Fear**

***1 Peter 2:6** For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” (NIV)*

***Jonah 2:8** Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. (NIV)*

Growth Group Homework

Week of September 27, 2020

Warm-Up

1. What was the first contract (official or unofficial) you signed with your name?
2. What was one of your most prized possessions as a child or teenager?

Talk it Over

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's message, what did you find most challenging or helpful?
4. What are some things in our lives that we hold onto tightly?
5. What indicators reveal that a person's hands are closed?
6. Read Matthew 6:24-34.
 - What in your life do you tend to worry about that results in holding on tightly?

- Has there been a time when you opened your hands to God? What was that experience like and what was the outcome?

7. Have you ever experienced God prying your hands open to remove something? What happened?

Take it Home

8. Where in your life is God challenging you to have open hands?
9. What from the discussion do you want to work on this upcoming week?

Prayer Focus

2 Corinthians 5:7 *"For we live by faith, not by sight."*

Ask God to . . .

- Show us the areas of our lives that are being influenced by fear.
- Help our faith and trust in God to be strengthened so that we can start to move away from fear and towards God.