



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

*“Only when we willingly and totally surrender our will,
will God totally transform our lives.”*

Willing to Surrender

During General Robert E Lee's invasion of the North, he ordered General Jubal Early and General John Gordon to move cross the Susquehanna River and take Philadelphia. On June 27, 1863, the Confederate Army camped at a small village called Farmers just outside the town of York. A. B. Farquhar, a leading industrialist, met with York's Committee of Safety concerned about the possible harm to his town's investments. The Committee did not seriously consider Farquhar's plan to dicker with the Confederates, so he headed towards the enemy on his own. At the enemy lines, he found Lt. Redik, who he knew from growing up in Maryland. He was then escorted to General Gordon. There a deal was struck to save the town which Farquhar relayed to the Committee of Safety. They had no choice but to accept. (Read [“The Civil War Comes to York County PA”](#) page 14.)

The [next day](#), as the Sunday church bells were ringing to start the morning services, the Confederates entered with loud Dixie music and flags flying. They halted in the Square and took down the Union flag. General Early demanded supplies and \$100,000 in US dollars from York. About \$28,610 and [its equivalent in merchandise](#) were collected, along with a “due bill” balance.

That day, the town's people did not willingly and totally surrender to General Early demands. Some temporarily moved their private things before he arrived. Many hid what belonged to them. (There is a story that some put their riches in a casket and buried it the day before in the church cemetery.) Others just said no and ignored the demands. The Confederates did not destroy much but returned to Gettysburg where they lost a great battle and later the war.

As side notes: Mr. Farquhar was criticized so much, for surrendering the town to the Confederates without a fight, that he went to see President Lincoln for an endorsement. His meeting with the President is recorded [here](#). After the war, General Early tried unsuccessfully to collect the “due bill” from York. One hundred and fifty years later, I attended this reenactment of the occupation of my home town of York.

We as Christians should not be like the ones above when it comes to our obedience to our Lord. Surrender is more than lip service, giving some money and goods, or doing good deeds. It is a willing daily attitude of the heart, soul and mind. As Jesus said, “nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.” Luke 22:42 Unlike General Early, God can see what we are holding back. But also, unlike General Early, God's rewards for total surrendering is beyond human explanations.



Are you willing to surrender all?

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May this song be your prayer.

I Surrender All
All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.



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