

Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend 5 minutes a day at least 5 days last week reading the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Did you have spend time alone with God this week?**
- **Have you kept your New Years spiritual goal?**
- **Do you know what the Holy Spirits saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked?**



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church**
- We are not a perfect people**
- We are here because we know we need God's help and He has provided this help through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Matthew 16 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

- The call to surrender...
- No longer living my will or my life but understanding my life is His!

- **The horse can give us a great living illustration of what it means to be a surrendered, obedient, Christ follower, built on a healthy relationship.**
- **Predator vs Prey = flight!**
- **Flight in a round pen is either right or left...
pressure = movement.**
- **Directing movement from the outside with a desire to obtain connected, willful, surrendered, relationship!**

- **Everyone wants to ride a horse... when people find out we have horses one of the first things they ask is “do you ride them?” or “Can they be ridden?”**
- **We all want the end result! What we want!! Immediate results...**
- **However, there is much more to the relationship than simply throwing on a saddle and riding! Yes, that is fun, but the relationship that gives you a secure time in the saddle is created on the ground!**

- **Many of the horses out there have never had a relationship built into them... they have simply been forced to surrender to the mandate of the owner and have been “broke!”**
- **There are many ways to break a horse and they all create damaged, broken issues in the horse that will need extra patience in re-establishing relationship, time to heal, and restore a trust that relationship is real, obtainable, and what is actually needed in their life to feel complete.**

- **Broke horses have been forced, having the trainer impose their will on the animal until it reaches the conclusion that total submission = survival**
- **In this “breaking,” often times the personality of the individual is lost - no longer having certain abilities, traits, and individual gifts/talents - it becomes robotic in its function**
- **The truth is, through the gaining of relationship thru willful surrender the personality is released & the full potential of the horse can emerge thru freedom & desire!**

- **Many people in the church, and many who no longer attend church, have been “broke” with what they have had forced on them in the name of God, Christianity, Church, serving etc.**
- **The brokenness of sin, the brokenness of forced obedience have left a people wanting to flee from God, from Christianity, from the Church and untrusting of all that carry that name...**
- **We have become skeptical of the leaders, of the system, of all that carry the name!**

- **Those broken see whips, ropes, the tools, and become fearful and resistant inside, for these are the very things that caused damage! Sometimes time with simple presence is required...**
- **When the leader actually models what is the natural desire of those they are attempting to establish a relationship with a healthy connection can be made rather quickly**
- **Healing of past brokenness & wrong imprinting can be corrected & we can begin together to experience life as it was intended to be lived!**

- **When working in the round pen the head “bows” in surrender toward the dirt (and is no longer lifted high in resistance) it is the sign that connected relationship is on the way!**
- **It is the moment you realize that being a Christ follower is not simply going to church, reading the Bible, praying, but it’s the complete surrender of myself to Him that = true relationship!**

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

- ***“you must give up your own way...”***
- **As we see here – Jesus is NOT forcing His will on us... not whipping us into submission, breaking us, but rather calling us to “give up” on our own and come to Him, entering into the relationship we were made for!!**
- **The immediate peace of being connected in relationship and that God has me in His care gives us the security that establishes - this is what I was made for!**

- **The purpose of the turning at a 45 angle from the horse and taking eye contact away is to allow the animal to NOT feel forced into something but allowing the heart and head to respond together in agreeing to a relationship!**
- **Today, we will offer the same to you - by stepping aside, turning on a 45 “calling” for you to willingly surrender!**
- **YES, it can create nervous tension and warring inside as we contemplate the trust factor, measuring the impact-I encourage you to respond!**

Action Steps

- **Some of us have been experiencing this call to willful surrender for the first time - God is now turning on a 45 and allowing you to come to Him**
- **Some of us have been broke, are damaged, have confusion in our heart -Today, God has begun to call you & is attempting to re-establish relationship with you - He is responding again by turning @ 45 and saying, 'Come to me'!**
- **Some need to begin again, the groundwork of Trust in your relationship with Jesus! (surrender)**