

The New and Improved Dinah

The idea of surrender was initially grasped when Dinah became sick and tired of striving for spirituality. She had gone through many difficult things in her life.

She says, "The one good thing that came out of that time in my life was the realization that I was, at heart, a wretched human being. I did things that I had seen other women do and had been merciless in my judgment of them. It was a sobering realization when I acknowledged that I was no better than those I had judged!"

When Dinah found herself back in church, it felt good to be back on track again. But she found herself putting tremendous effort into convincing people that she was spiritual, and thus she was always gauging her own performance. She almost felt panicked if she sensed that someone saw behind the facade.

Part of the reason was that, while maintaining the façade, she was also reconstructing her personality—sort of her gift to God in her mind! She says, *"I somehow had it in my mind that if I could become a better person, I would arrive at spirituality."*

She found the embodiment of what she wanted to become in a dear Christian sister named Martha Jo. She was what Dinah wanted to be. So, every morning Dinah set out to be like Martha Jo. *Have you ever done that?*

The Death of Martha Jo

If God asked you, "If I want to keep you exactly the way you are right now, will you let Me?"

Would you let Him?

Dinah very hesitantly answered, "All right, God, You can keep me just the way I am if You're sure that's what You really want." Then He impressed upon her that she had to surrender Martha Jo.

Dinah's dislike for who she was and her striving for an alter ego identity are not unusual. It is much more common than people want to admit.

What Happens in Surrender?

Some women might be worried that through surrendering their heart, they might lose their personality; that they may become Christian doormats where others wipe their feet. ***In fact, the opposite happens.***

Don't set yourself up for failure by trying to manipulate your personality into something it isn't.

Surrender allows us to take honest stock of our strengths and weaknesses and put them all in God's hands. *It is trusting God completely.*

Surrender does not negate self-discipline or forming good habits. These are different issues entirely. There is nothing wrong with trying to overcome bad habits or socially unacceptable behavior. What we are talking about here refers to matters of the heart, the things that our heart dwells on.

Why Can't we Measure up?

From Sinner to Saint in One Easy Step

It is worth taking a minute to reflect on one reason why women find it hard to accept themselves and feel like they never measure up. Look at the huge number of tapes and books about the life experiences of Christian women. The theme usually runs something like this: A woman is caught in the lusts and sins of the world until she finds Jesus. She is then transformed into the perfect Christian woman.

The books that were meant to inspire become condemnation because of shame.

God wants us to live life fully as ourselves not as a created personality.

Our story is unique and is being written by God.

When we surrender, we are saying, *"God, I want to live in truth. I want You to be at the center of my life. And I want to live in the NOW. You have a purpose for my life."* Can you surrender to God?

Let God write your book!