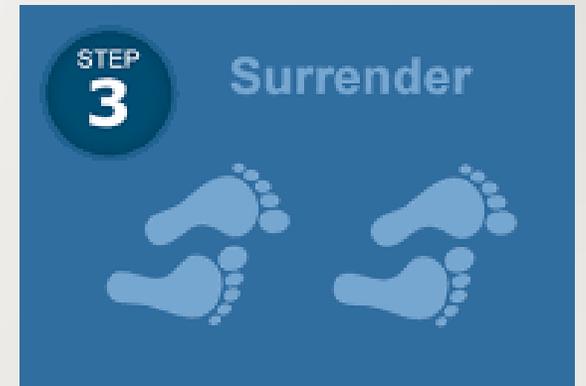




Spirituality of the 12 Steps

Step 3 Sweet Surrender

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON
RICHARD ROHR'S
BREATHING UNDERWATER



Sweet Surrender

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.

“O, come to the water all you who are thirsty. Though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat; and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?” — **Isaiah 55:1–2**

“Work for your salvation in fear and trembling. It is God, for his own loving purposes, who puts both the will and the action into you.” — **Philippians 2:12–13**



“Ask, and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened.” — **Matthew 7:7–8**

..surrender is **not** “giving up,” as we tend to think, nearly as much as it is a “giving to” the moment, the event, the person, and the situation.



“What you resist, persists.”

Our inner blockage to “turning our will over” is only overcome by a decision.

In fact, our culture does not respect people who do not “take control.”



Jesus made it step one, you might say: “If anyone wants to follow me, let him renounce himself [or herself!]”

“the myth of heroic” sacrifice.

- “Personal sacrifice” creates the Olympics and American Idol, many heroic projects, and many wonderful people.
- **It is just not the Gospel, but only its most common substitute.**

The common way of renouncing the self, while not really renouncing the self at all, is being sacrificial!



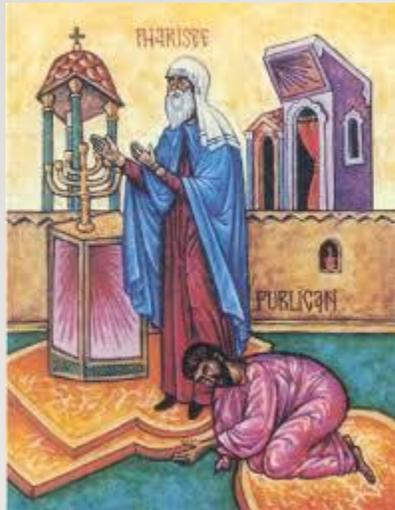
Suicide bombers
manipulative mother
all codependents

love is actually not love at all, but its most clever and bogus disguise.

they are merely seeking moral high ground for themselves and the social esteem that comes with it.

The Genius of the Twelve Steps

- The absolute genius of the Twelve Steps is that it refuses to bless and reward what looks like any moral worthiness game or mere heroic willpower.



the starting point and, in fact, the continuing point, is not any kind of worthiness at all but in fact unworthiness!

False sacrifice is an actual avoidance of any real “renouncing” of the self, while looking generous or dedicated.

We have been graced for a truly sweet surrender, *if we can radically accept being radically accepted— for nothing!*

Questions for Reflection

- What do you think keeps people from “turning their wills over to God”?
- How do you understand “surrender”?
 - Do you see it as “giving-up” or “giving to”?
 - Doesn't this depend on to whom or to what you are surrendering?
- Rohr writes, “It is easy to surrender when you know that nothing but Love and Mercy is on the other side.” Do most people you encounter expect God to be “nothing but Love and Mercy? Or Do you think they expect “judgement” and “chastisement”?