



Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

October 2016

I was at a local store a few weeks back and, as I was placing my order, the store clerk asked me my name. I told her Chris Hodges and she smiled and asked me if I was on the radio. I told her I was and she said she recognized my voice. I'm originally from a small agricultural town in the Mississippi Delta and that is the reason for my southern twang. She told me the radio clips always encouraged her and that encouraged me and makes all the effort and expense more than worth it.

My family and I recently had the privilege of traveling back to Mississippi for a speaking engagement. We were greeted warmly and enjoyed fellowship with Christian friends. Sunday morning I shared my personal testimony and at the conclusion of the service we had a number of people come forward to consecrate (surrender) themselves to the Lord at the altar.

What is *consecration*?

It is the dedication of worship and service to God. It is an absolute surrender of your human will to God's will. It is saying no to yourself and yes to God so continually that you begin to do this unconsciously.

Francis Ridley Havergal knew this life of consecration. She wrote this now famous hymn in 1874.

***"Take My Life and Let it Be"***

***Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in endless praise.  
Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.  
Take my voice and let me sing,  
Always, only for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.***



Chris Hodges  
President & CEO

*Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.  
Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.*

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879).

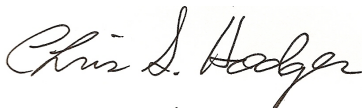
I was recently talking with a man in his 70's who told me that he had never really experienced the joy of the Lord since his moment of salvation. With tears in his eyes, he told me how long and how hard he had been praying all of his life, how he had read the Bible through many times, faithful in attending his church, in witnessing to others, handing people gospel tracts, and how much money he has given to his church and many Christian organizations, but most of his Christian life he has felt as if he were walking under a cloud of guilt. I told him that it is absolutely impossible for him to live the Christian life. It simply can't be done. That's why Paul wrote, "***I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.***" [Philippians 4:13](#)

***Through Christ Who strengthens me*** is the secret. As we surrender our human will to the control of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit lives the Christian life through us. God gets all the glory! I encouraged him to quit trying so hard and learn to simply be. He phoned me a week later and said, "*Chris, it works! I've learned to just let God have it. And since I have been letting the Holy Spirit have His way, I'm getting along with people better; my pastor and people at church are more comfortable with me and my witnessing opportunities are not so forced but natural.*"

My friend, he has found the secret of the Christian life, ***let go and let God!*** You will not do less you will do more but it will have the stamp of God upon it. This is the secret Miss Havergal discovered.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. You have an important part in reaching people through our Bible lessons done via the mail, and through our internet and radio broadcast program, "***Abiding Above with Chris Hodges.***" Without you, this could not be done!

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges  
President  
Abiding Above Ministries  
Colossians 3:1-3