

Session 3: Living Sacrifices to God

- Rev. Johnson V.

ROMANS 12:1

¹ *"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] **the mercies of God**, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship."*

You have to see this request from God in the perspective of "God's Mercy & Compassion"...

- not in the perspective of God's wrath
- not in the perspective of God's judgment
- not in the perspective of God's. Some sort of disfavour.

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So how do we respond to the "mercies of God"?

We make a DECISIVE DEDICATION of our bodies (including our faculties) i.e.

- Dedicate God-given abilities
- Dedicate our sense of discernment
- Dedicate our understanding
- Dedicate our intuitive skills

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How do you become a LIVING SACRIFICE?

You have to be HOLY

- It means you have to be **DEVOTED** and **CONSECRATED** which are valuable only when they run parallel to each other
- **Devotion** is not only an expression. Devotion is also an attitude. It is a sense of fear of God.
- **Consecration** is being separated for God, separate from being casual and ordinary.

WHAT EXACTLY IS SPIRITUAL WORSHIP?

*¹ "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and **spiritual worship**."*

- Spiritual worship is not limited to only speaking in tongues, though it is a vital part of spiritual worship.
- **Expressions of spiritual worship** also include raising hands, dancing in God's presence, kneeling down, crying before God etc.
- **The practice of offering yourselves as a living sacrifice** is something that is necessary for completing your spiritual worship.

- **INTERNAL** attitude, thought formations, patterns, feelings and the adjustments are what actually manages the **EXTERNAL** things of the body.

- If you want to change your external expressions and you want to dedicate the members of your body as a living sacrifice to God, you have to choose:
 - what kind of thoughts you're going to have
 - what kind of memories you're going to have
 - what kind of motivations you are going to pick up
 - what kind of adjustments you need to make internally

- Giving yourselves to God means living a life that pleases God.
- Only the Holy Bible can help you understand what God likes and pleases Him
- Thus when you obey God's Word, it becomes your reasonable, rational and intelligent service to God and **this is spiritual worship**.

ROMANS 12:2

² **Do not be conformed to this world (this age)**, [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

- **When the Bible uses the word 'Earth', it's talking about the materials**, the sun, the moon, the stars, the sky, the you know, the vegetation, the animals, the trees, the plant. It's talking about the physical earth.
- **But when the Bible uses the word 'World', it means the social systems of the earth**. The social systems of the society, the cultures, the behavior, the pattern, the sin, the righteousness, the leadership, all of that is included in the word world.
- That's why when you read how the devil wanted to tempt Jesus, he took Jesus to a high place from where he could show Jesus the 'world'. Not just the earth, he showed Jesus the world and tried to tempt him saying that *"the systems of the world will fall before you, if you will bow before me"*. And of course, the Lord Jesus said, "Satan get behind me."
- So **"do not be confirmed to this world means"** don't become like the systems of the world by unnecessarily attracting fleshly things. Carry yourself in such a way that when people look at you they won't have fleshly feelings or carnal thoughts because that's not the right kind of expressions you should be having; that's the devil using you and not God.
- You need to look beautiful, you need to look smart. The point however is that you need to be attracting people to Jesus and not to yourself. Conform to the kingdom of God and not this World. **This is one way of offering ourselves as a living sacrifice. You can replace worldliness with godliness.**

HOW DO WE CHANGE

FROM BEING CONFIRMED TO THIS WORLD TO BECOMING A LIVING SACRIFICE?

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- **CHANGE YOUR THINKING** : The Bible is saying, “be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”
- **PLEASE DON'T JUST CHANGE YOUR EXTERNAL** : We have to change and be transformed from the inside by the new ideas and new attitudes that the Holy Spirit puts in you, then you will be able to discover:
 1. **What is good?**
 2. **What is acceptable?**
 3. **What is the perfect will of God?**
- Sometimes understanding God's will is a very difficult thing, but it is something that we learn in our walk with God through practicing verse 1 & 2 and only then we will start to understand what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

IMPORTANCE OF PRAISE & WORSHIP

1. Even though worship is a lifestyle that is lived out beyond Sunday Service, the physical expression of worship in some ways is mostly expressed on Sundays. So naturally, Sunday worship is important.
2. We sing and worship God Because the Bible says, *“Sing unto the Lord, a new song, sing unto the Lord all the earth.”*
3. The Bible respects the fact that different people express in different ways but the important thing is that we can't behave like the dead; **we need to have expressions of life in Christ Jesus.**
4. Making a joyful noise is as important as sitting silently and contemplating in the presence of God.

WORSHIP MINISTRY LIFESTYLE

- 1. The Most important thing for people in the choir and for musicians** who serve in church worship ministry is prayer. You should pray everyday and this is one very important thing that you shouldn't be taking lightly.
- 2. Secondly, your interpersonal relationships** especially with the opposite sex should be honourable. You have to be really sincere in the eyes of God.
- 3. Thirdly, treat the opportunity to be close to God's work with a lot of respect and don't take it casually.** There's an old saying - 'Familiarity breeds contempt'. So sometimes when you serve and grow close to the people on the stage you start to lose respect for the platform. You start losing respect for the place where God has put you and it breeds a sense of contempt. This is a dangerous place to be. You may lose God's favour though you are in the forefront like Uzza displeased God by touching the ark of covenant unworthily (2 Samuel 6:3-8)
- 4. Always have a heart of devotion**

WORSHIP MINISTRY LIFESTYLE

6 QUICK TIPS

1. Spend time with God everyday in Prayer and Bible study

- Don't just read the Bible, study the Bible.
- When you pray to God don't make boring monotonous speeches but be sincere when you talk to God.

2. Love your family and maintain good human relationships.

- This is something very important when you commit yourself to the worship team. Love your family even if they are not believers.
- The Bible says to have peace with every human being as much as possible.

3. Love the Church just like how Jesus loves the Church.

- Sometimes some people might be difficult to love but because Jesus loves them, we have got to love and care for them and pray for them.

WORSHIP MINISTRY LIFESTYLE

6 QUICK TIPS

4. Be a Great Worshipper

- Not just on Sundays and not just within the walls of the church. You can worship God through your obedience to Him. You can worship God through excellence in your life. You obey God by honouring His commandments.

5. Develop a Good Team-Spirit

- Have a humble spirit with all your talents. Be willing to work with others who in your opinion may not be as talented as you. The idea in worship is to lift up Jesus and not yourself. So if you have a tendency to stick out and identify separately that's dangerous. Learn to blend your ability with other's ability.

6. Never Stop Growing

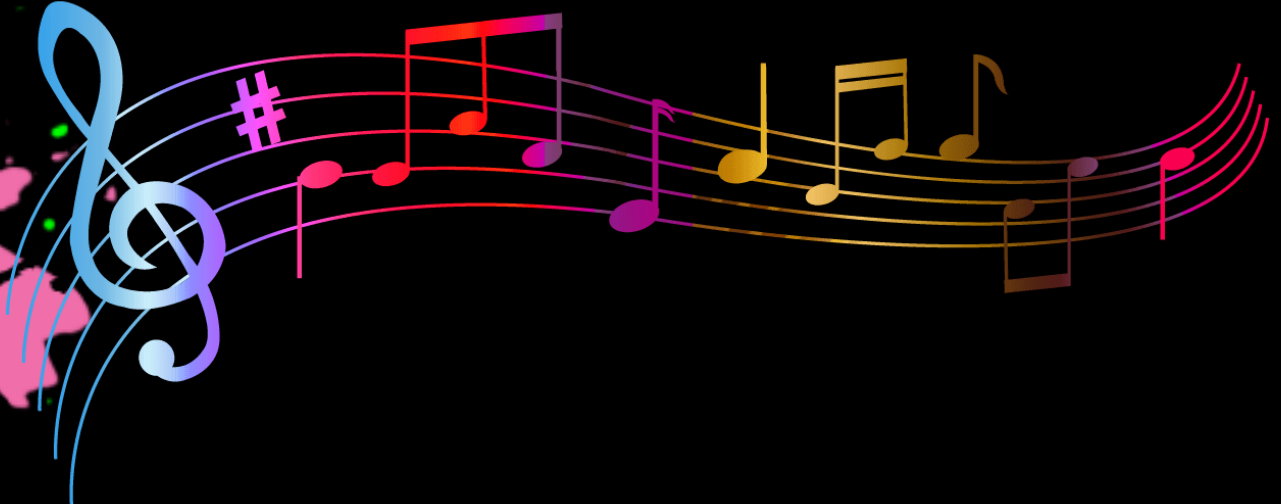
- None of us will reach a place where we are so skillful that we can not grow. We need to keep improvising and improving because we are serving Jesus and we need to give our best to the Lord. Continue to keep growing in your skills and abilities and most importantly grow in your love for God. The day you stop breathing is the day you stop learning so keep growing in the grace of God because he resides in us and is continuously teaching us.



NEXT WEEK:

Living Sacrifices to God
(Part – 2)

Thank You



FOR BEING A PART OF
BETHEL FAMILY