

Ministry Of The Holy Spirit Part Three Living By The Spirit

Romans 12:1-2

Living Sacrifices to God

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

This is a big statement about how a Christian should live:

- **Holy**
- **Acceptable to God**
- **Different from the world**

And if you take a look at the history of mankind, you will see that this has been a struggle:

- **The fall of man in The Garden**
- **40 years in the wilderness**
- **Even the rejection of Jesus by God's "Chosen people"**

And if you read about a sacrifice, it had to be perfect, no spot or blemish...

With that, you may ask:

- **With all of this history of failure, and me in an imperfect state...**
- **How can I be this person described in this verse...?**

First let me remind you;

- **You don't have to be perfect, just willing!!**
- **Jesus was perfect, and He willingly became our sacrifice...**
- **We don't have to be perfect, just perfect in Him!!**

Second:

- **We have The Holy Spirit living within us**
- **Leading and teaching us....**
- **Empowering us to live a life pleasing to God**

How does He do that?

There are so many Scriptures to use on this, but I'm going to try to focus on this one passage for today:

Romans 8:1-11

8 There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus**, who **do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit**. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For **what the law could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, **God did by sending His own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that **the righteous requirement** of the law might be **fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**. 5 **For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit**. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, **those who are in the flesh cannot please God**.

9 **But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but **the Spirit is life because of righteousness**. 11 But if **the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you**, He who raised Christ from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1. There is no condemnation in Christ:

John 3:17

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- **Condem:** to express an unfavorable or adverse judgment on;
- to pronounce to be guilty
- **Krino:** separate, punish, to damn

God's desire is not for anyone to perish....that anyone should fail...

- God wants us all to have a great life here on this earth!!
- And even better eternity in Heaven!!!

And God wants to equip us to have both of these...

2. We walk in The Spirit, Not by the flesh: (Galatians 5:16-25)

If you walk in the flesh, you will live for the flesh/fulfill the lust, desires of flesh

- adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like

These are natural desires that live in all flesh:

- If you act upon these, you “fulfill” the lust/ desires of the flesh
- Your life now lives for this

If you walk by The Spirit you will live for God, and demonstrate the Fruit of The Spirit:

- love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

3. Keep focused:

I've used the illustration of riding a motorcycle a few times...

- Motorcycle Target Fixation.
- You go where you are looking focusing, often leads to a crash

Same thing applies in life...

- If your focus is on the flesh you will act upon the flesh
- Everything starts in the mind....(that's why it needs to be transformed)
- If you think about it long enough, you will eventually act on it

That's why there are so many verses in The Bible that tell us where to focus our attention:

Psalm 121:1-2

I will lift up my eyes to the hills—

From whence comes my help?

2 My help comes from the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—**meditate on these things.**

Hebrews 12:2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith

4. We are Spiritual beings

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The song we sang today and the Scripture above both say:

- The same Power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us!!
- That Spirit is more powerful than the flesh
- We are born again from death to life
- From natural to supernatural

5. We have not achieved righteousness, but have been made righteous

“the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

- Man tried and failed to become righteous through works and law
- It didn't work
- We can never be good enough on our own
- There is a “Requirement” for righteousness...
- It's only through Christ that we are righteous

“The Spirit is life because of righteousness”:

- Righteousness: Right standing relationship with God
- Separated from God by sin
- Reunited through Christ
- Maintained by The Holy Spirit

Romans 6:1-14

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

6 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall **we who died to sin** live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that **our old man was crucified with Him**, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died **has been freed from sin.** 8 Now

if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, **reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For **sin shall not have dominion over you**, for you are not under law but under grace.

Closing:

You do not have to be a slave to sin

- **But you cannot do this alone...**
- **And you don't have to...**
- **Thankfully, God gave us a Helper!!**

Prayer for sanctification

- **The Holy Spirit breaking the bondage of sin in your life**

Prayer for Spirit Baptism