

July 30, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Rom. 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.* (NIV)

The offering here means to present or offer something of your free will. This is not a command but should be our desire if we are born again. **2 Cor. 9:7** *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* (NIV) This applies to all aspects of our walk - time, talents, tithe, etc.

Paul then states that this is in view of God's mercy. We should love because He loves. We should give because He gives. We should serve because He serves. And then we see the commitment; we are to be a *living* sacrifice. Now you can't be a living sacrifice if you are not living; not existing but living. This means we put ourselves on the altar. There is no partial sacrifice. We cannot bargain with God. Either you are committed completely, or you are not. This is a daily and total surrender, meaning that we are completely abandoning ourselves to Him, entrusting our lives into His hands.

Lastly, Paul reminds us that to walk in complete surrender, we cannot be conformed to this world. We were born in sin, but if we are saved, we have been born of the Spirit. This means that we have been transformed from our sinful, physical nature into a renewed work of the Holy Spirit within us. It is His power that transforms us, not ours. With a new mind, we see things from a new perspective. We begin to see what He sees--this is true wisdom. And then we can manifest His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Dear LORD, we offer ourselves completely today. We are not our own, we've been bought with a price, therefore we will glorify You in our lives today. In Jesus Name, Amen