

Roman 12:1, My Relationship with God

*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.*

NKJV

*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*

NIV

Do Daily!

Before starting your study time with the Lord in His word—pray! Thank the Lord for giving you the day and the breath to live it. Ask Him to speak to your heart revealing himself. Ask Him to give you “spiritual ears” to listen to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit as you read and learn about His character, His plans and His purpose for your life. Praise him!

Read the verse above. How much of it can you recite without looking at the words. Consider the words and how they apply to you today.

Day 1: Therefore. . .

What is the “therefore” there for? Encapsulate the “therefore” from the following:

- Romans 3:23-24
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 6:4
 - Therefore, you are no longer enslaved by and dominated by what two things:
 - Romans 6:6-7
 - Romans 6:8-9
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 8:1
- Romans 8:13-14, What is the choice before you?

- Romans 8:18
- Romans 8:28
- Romans 8:39
- Romans 10:9-10

Pray: *Father thank you for making a way for me to have a relationship with you through your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for saving me from my sin through the death of your one and only son on the cross. The resurrection gives me hope because through it Jesus proved that he conquered sin and death as well. I confess my need to you and ask that you cleanse me from ALL the things that I have chosen to do that have distanced me from you. Thank you that nothing can separate me from your love.*

Day 2

1. In what manner does Paul describe the need to “present your bodies a living sacrifice”? What emotion do you think he felt as he wrote this to his brothers and sisters in Christ? Define the word used.
2. What is the motivation given to us to “present our bodies a living sacrifice?”
3. From the following verses what do you learn about this aspect of God?
 - Psalm 51:1-2
 - 1 Peter 1:3-4 (Make a list)
 - Titus 3:4-7 (Extra verses for contest)
 - Hebrews 4:15-16

4. When considering yourself as a “living sacrifice” what, if any, fears, doubts or objections come immediately to mind? Tell God all the things you fear you will lose if you surrender everything in you life to him.

Day 3: Total Surrender = Total Commitment

Surrender seems so scary! Why is this the case? Can this be reasoned out as risk assessment vs. reward?

Let’s consider two stories: the first about ancient treasure and the second a find of considerable value. Regarding the treasure, this was in the days before retirement accounts. This treasure was buried for safe keeping for future need, but unfortunately the owner died without informing his relatives of its location.

Read Matthew 13:44-46

Risk vs. Reward

1. Describe the steps of the man who discovered the treasure:
 - a. He _____ it.
 - b. He _____ it again.
 - c. He felt _____ over it.
 - d. He did what to obtain it? _____
2. How does the merchant’s story parallel the first man’s experience?
3. Do you feel sorry for either of these men?
4. Was their “sacrifice” or total commitment worth it? Why or why not?
5. What do you have to gain by total surrender/commitment to God?

What’s our perspective when we think of our lives as a “living sacrifice” to the Lord—which is total & complete surrender? Is it positive or negative?

6. How could you positively view the risk the treasure hunter and merchant took? Describe.

7. How could you negatively view the risk the treasure hunter and merchant took? Describe.

8. What is your view of total commitment?

Day 4: Becoming a “Living Sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God”

Does our view of God factor into how we view becoming a “living sacrifice—holy and pleasing” to Him? Does our struggle with this complete surrender actually come from not really believing that God loves us or that He is good? This returns us to a question asked earlier: What must I know about God to completely commit to joyfully offer myself, body and mind, as a living sacrifice to Him?

What can be learned about God’s character and the benefits of surrendering to Him from the following verses: This is a very “short” list. Feel free to add to it!

| Verse | Characteristic of God | Benefit Received |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Psalm 34:8 | | |
| John 14: 27 | | |
| John 16:13 | | |
| 1 John 4:9 | | |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 | | |
| 2 Thessalonians 3:3 | | |
| Colossians 2:10 | | |

God gets us! He understands our fears. Sometimes we know (intellectually) what we need to do, but just can’t seem to do it. We need to know (through experience) that He is faithful and He’s got me—all of me firmly in the grip of His grace. We can ask Jesus to “help us in our unbelief” to trust Him and see Him accurately.

Continue to memorize Romans 12:1 and a verse about God from above or one of your own. Write it out.

Day 5: A Surrendered—Totally Committed Life

1. What is the command in Romans 12:1
2. Why does God ask us to do this? (Romans 12:1)

Read Genesis 22:1-19 thoughtfully considering what God was asking of Abraham.

3. Consider the following questions:
 - a. What was God asking Abraham to do?
 - b. Why would God ask him this?
 - c. What did Abraham believe about God? Why?
 - d. What did God do and why?
4. What was the risk? What was the reward?
5. What might be an “Isaac” in your life that God is asking you to lay on the altar?
6. Read Matthew 6:24. How is this related to being totally committed to God? Explain.
7. Why does God want ALL of you?

What is the best way to process your thoughts, fears, excitement and doubts regarding going “All in” with God? Is there someone with whom you can share what is on your heart?

Pray Colossians 1:9-12. Write out verses to memorize on note cards and keep them handy.