



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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A Living Sacrifice to God!

Scripture: Romans 12:1 – I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

The Scripture does not leave us to live our lives in the realm of the theoretical. This life-changing gospel calls us to a place of commitment that will affect the way we live. Therefore, it is not merely some cerebral acknowledgment; we are commanded to present our bodies in active service to the Lord.

When sacrificing an animal according to God's Law, a priest killed the animal, cut it into pieces, and placed it on the altar. Sacrifice was important, but even in the Old Testament God made it clear that obedience from the heart was much more important (1 Samuel 15:22; Psalm 40:6; Amos 5:21-24). A slain sacrifice could only be offered once; then it was consumed. The living sacrifice of our bodies to His service involves a daily, lifelong commitment for the cause of the kingdom. Every sacrifice offered to God was to be a holy sacrifice. God wants us to offer ourselves, not animals, as living sacrifices—daily laying aside our own desires to follow Him, putting all our energy and resources at His disposal and trusting Him to guide us. We do this out of gratitude that our sins have been forgiven.

Since the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden, all of mankind has been flawed (Romans 3:23). The only way that we can present our bodies a “holy” sacrifice is first to be born again. Serving the Lord Jesus Christ begins with the scriptural experience of repentance of sins, water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remissions of sins, and receiving the Holy Ghost, evidenced by speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.

The Scripture challenges us to present an “acceptable” offering unto the Lord. What qualifies as an acceptable offering in the sight of God? Perhaps some insight is gained from Malachi 1:7-8, 13, which describes some unacceptable offerings that the people were bringing to God. God demanded that they bring the very best as an offering to Him.

The only acceptable offering for us is to bring our very best to Jesus. He is not looking for half-hearted, secondary service offered as an afterthought. We do not have to be the smartest, the most talented, or the best-looking. But whatever we have to offer, we should be and do the very best that we possibly can in the service of our King. This is, in essence, the message of the parable of the talents that Jesus taught.

Paul stressed that he was not asking anything unreasonable. We owe our lives, our joy, and our hope to God. Not only is He our Creator, but He became our Savior. In view of the immeasurable sacrifice of Calvary, asking us to live our lives to the fullest in the service of Jesus Christ is definitely a reasonable expectation.

God has good, pleasing, and perfect plans for His children. He wants us to be new people with renewed minds, living to honor and obey Him. Since He wants only what is best for us, and since He gave His Son to make our new life possible, we should joyfully volunteer as living sacrifices for His service.

Paul said: *“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God”* (Romans 6:13). So, we should actively submit our thoughts, actions, and desires to God, rather than yielding them to the temptations and sinful desires that would lead to iniquity. It is also a complete surrender of one's entire being to God's will and purposes. To shape and mold your life for His kingdom, using your body to further His agenda rather than darkness.

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).

People of God, God wants you to be a living sacrifice!