



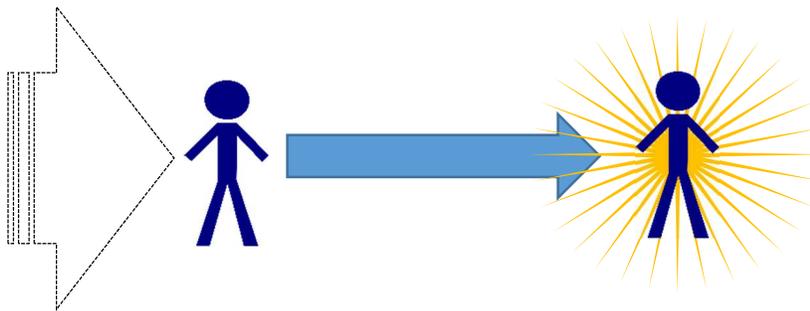
Romans 12:1-2

SURRENDERING TO GOD

Can we give up all for the love of God? When the surrender of ourselves seems too much to ask, it is first of all because our thoughts about God Himself are paltry. ...If we had the least notion of His loving-kindness and tender mercy, His fatherly care for His poor children, His generosity, His beautiful plans for us; if we knew how patiently He waits for our turning to Him, how gently He means to lead us to green pastures and still waters, how carefully He is preparing a place for us, how ceaselessly He is ordering and ordaining and engineering His Master Plan for our good—if we had any inkling of all this, could we be reluctant to let go of our smashed dandelions or whatever we clutch so fiercely in our sweaty little hands? If with courage and joy we pour ourselves out for Him and for others for His sake, it is not possible to lose, in any final sense, anything worth keeping. We will lose ourselves and our selfishness. We will gain everything worth having. —Elisabeth Elliot

After eleven chapters on the doctrines of the Christian faith, Paul shifts gears and begins to exhort the Roman believers on how to live out their Christian faith in everyday life.

*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.
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.*



OUR MOTIVATION: The _____ of God.

OUR ENCOURAGEMENT: The _____ of God.

OUR PURPOSE: To live out the _____ of God.

Doctrine must always precede exhortations since in doctrine the saint is shown his exalted position which makes the exhortation to a holy life, a reasonable one. —Kenneth S. Wuest

We must give ourselves to God in the same way He gave Himself for us— totally, unconditionally, and without reservation. The consequences and circumstances resulting from our surrender will never even enter our mind, because our life will be totally consumed with Him.

—Oswald Chambers

May not a single moment of my life be spent outside the light, love and joy of God's presence and not a moment without the entire surrender of myself as a vessel for Him to fill full of His Spirit and His love.

—Andrew Murray

"I beseech you" is one of the tenderest expressions in all the Bible. —J. P. McBeth

Acceptable. Greek, *euarestos*, "speaks of something which is well approved, eminently satisfactory, or extraordinarily pleasing" (Wuest).

OUR PRACTICE:

1. PRESENT MY _____ TO GOD.

Paul's exhortation in Romans 6 is reiterated in Romans 12:1-2. The process of living out the Christian life involves three key actions:



I am to offer my whole body, every part of it, to God as...

- A _____ sacrifice.
- A _____ sacrifice.
- A _____ sacrifice.

This is my reasonable, worshipful response to God's abundant mercies!

2. RENEW MY _____ WITH GOD'S TRUTH.

- Stop being _____ to this world.

Greek, *su-schematizo*, to shape one thing like another; describes what is transitory, changeable, and unstable

- Start being _____ by God's truth.

Greek, *meta-morphoo*, to change in one's essence; describes what is complete or durable, not merely a form or outline

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Have I received the mercies of God found in Jesus Christ?
- Have I given over my eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet, mind, emotions, will, desires, possessions, time, talents, and future to the Lord?
- In what ways am I being conformed to the thinking of this world?
- Am I renewing my mind with God's truth on a daily basis?

Surrender is not the surrender of the external life, but of the will; when that is done, all is done.

There are very few crises in life; the great crisis is the surrender of the will. —Oswald Chambers

Consecration isn't our giving anything to God. It is our taking our hands off what already belongs to God. —Walter Knight

Consecration is handing God a blank sheet to fill in with your name signed at the bottom.

—M. H. Miller

Present your bodies—that is, present your vessel. That must come first. A vessel that has not been presented will not be filled. God cannot fill what He cannot have. —A. W. Tozer

Reasonable. Greek, *logikos*, "that which is rational, logical." "The sacrifice is to be intelligent, in contrast to those offered by ritual and compulsion" (Vine).

Service. Greek, *latreia*, "to perform the sacred services," as in priestly service (Strong).

World. Greek, *aion*, "that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations, at any time current in the world; the immoral atmosphere which at every moment of our lives we inhale and also exhale" (Trench).

We human beings seem to be imitative by nature. We need a model to copy, and ultimately there are only two. There is this world which is passing away, and there is God's will which is good, pleasing, and perfect.

—John R. W. Stott