

Romans 12:1-2, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Unconditional Surrender.

Romans 12:1

Paul writes, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship" (Rom. 12:1). The word "present" in this verse means "present once and for all," i.e. to consecrate yourself completely to God. Friend, you cannot walk with one foot on the narrow path and the other on the broad road (Mt. 7:13-14), for these are one-way streets heading in opposite directions. And so, God's Word repeatedly calls out to us, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him" (1 Kgs. 18:21); "Choose today whom you will serve" (Josh. 24:15); "No one can serve two masters" (Mt. 6:24). Remember, Christ turned half-hearted followers away (Lk. 9:57-52), and called luke-warm Christianity nauseating (Rev. 3:16). Will you surrender everything to Christ today?

Read Deuteronomy 6:5

☐ Tuesday - A Living Sacrifice.

Romans 12:1

Here we find yet another New Covenant commandment: "Present yourself as a living sacrifice!" (Rom. 12:1). Christian, God sent His dearly beloved Son to *die* in sacrifice for you. Now, He calls for this response: *Live* in sacrifice for Me! Does your Christianity cost you anything? David declared, "Far be it from me to offer to the Lord that which cost me nothing" (2 Sam. 24:24), and for such an attitude he was called "a man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22).

Read Matthew 16:24-25

☐ Wednesday - What is True Worship?

Romans 12:1

Singing songs at church on Sunday morning is only the tip of the iceberg of what the Bible calls "worship," because true worship is not an isolated activity, but rather a quality of life. It is presenting ourselves to God as a living sacrifice every moment of every day, which the Bible calls "our spiritual service of worship" (Rom. 12:1). It is rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, and in everything giving thanks (1 Thess. 5:16-18), through the daily, routine activities of life. And then when we assemble together, corporate worship will never feel mechanical nor forced, but rather the overflow of a heart that has been enjoying the Lord all week long.

Read John 4:23-24

☐ Thursday - Do Not Be Conformed to This World.

Romans 12:2

Remember, Christian, once "you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world" (Eph. 2:1-3). And even now the world tries to press you back into its mold, to look like them, sound like them, and think like them. But you are a new creation in Christ! (2 Cor. 5:17). Therefore "do not be conformed to this world" (Rom. 12:1). You are a Christian, not a clone!

Read Ephesians 5:6-12; 1 John 2:15-17; 3 John 1:11

☐ Friday - Be Transformed.

Romans 12:2

The Christian life is a transformation. It starts by being "born-again" (John 3:3; cf. 2 Cor. 5:17), and it ends by one final transformation of our natural bodies into incorruptible new glorified bodies (1 Cor. 15:51-53). In-between these two epic events the Christian life is marked by continual transformation. And so here the apostle Paul writes, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:2), written in the present passive voice which literally reads, "Continue to let yourselves be transformed." The One who transforms us of course is God (Phil. 1:6), through the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18). But we must stay in step with the Spirit's work in our lives, by daily renewing our minds in the written Word of God which He inspired (2 Tim. 3:16).

Read 1 Peter 2:2