

Resting in God
“Communing with Father God while angry faces attempt to threaten us”

Study 12

Romans 12:1 (New International Version)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

To comprehend the spiritual maturity of Christ it is vital to understand what His perception of the world was when He walked in it verses His knowledge of the kingdom of heaven. It is also eternally important to understand that the mindset of being a living sacrifice, totally dead to the things of the world, allowed Him to live only for His Father, the same way He is teaching us to live.

Jesus walked on this earth as a living sacrifice. Long before the cross, Jesus was dead to any of the influences of the worldly kingdoms. Fear, lust, the pride of life, rebellion, and sin of every kind was all non-existent in Him. Even death had no hold on Him. Because the Kingdom of heaven with His Father was His heart-home He saw everything from His Father's perspective. He was God, still He submitted to His own creation so that creation could learn true kingdom submission. He was man, but that truth never hindered Him because He had put to death all of the hazards that mankind were affected by because of their lower nature.

The most powerful demonstration of the success of the cross is someone who is walking in the Kingdom of God while in this world. That kind of dead to the world, living sacrifice brings the most joy to the heart of Jesus and the most glory to His name. It is the most pleasing to the heart of Father God, and the most sincere act of worship.

Subsequently, walking through this world while living in the kingdom of heaven in your heart, as Jesus did, is the most joyous kind of life. Unaffected by anything the world has to offer, continually pleasing God because of love for Him in your heart, while living in the knowledge of total acceptance by Him and in unbroken intimate fellowship with Him is the most wonderful life available to redeemed mankind. The life of that redeemed man of woman demonstrates to the world, the angelic creation, and to all of the creatures in the kingdom of darkness, the Glory of God and the finished work of the cross, which brings joy to the heart of Father God.

Contemplate, if you will, a holy church, pleasing to God, walking in unbroken fellowship with Him and with each other, all having one purpose, one reason for every breath they take, have His kingdom come on this earth; to have His will done on earth as it is in heaven. That is the joyous life of living sacrifices. That is the life won by the cross and available to those of us who choose to accept it.

Matthew 11:12 (New International Version) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

A living sacrifice is a person who is completely dead to any and all influences to the kingdom of the world and the kingdom of darkness. We have been given the power through the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome these kingdoms.

Each of us is being called to advance the Kingdom of God in our hearts. As each of our individual spiritual battles are won through the Holy Spirit, the kingdom of heaven advances forcefully through the kingdoms of this world. As we move within the Kingdom of God, wherever we go, the Kingdom of heaven pushes aside whatever kingdom has dominated that area. The life of God and the light of Jesus take hold in that realm. Darkness cannot exist where the light of Jesus shines.

With each overthrow of the kingdom that our flesh serves or fears, the Kingdom of heaven becomes more prominent in our lives. As we submit more and more to the Lord, we become more and more trustworthy to Him to carry his kind of life to those who need to see the wonders of the Kingdom of heaven and embrace Jesus as their Lord. Our forceful rejection of the things that do not serve God in us, is the forceful advancing of the Kingdom of God.

Hebrews 4:9-10 (New International Version) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

When we die to ourselves and all that we hold dear, Christ comes to the forefront of lives. He lives so we no longer have to try to be more than we can. When we become small, He becomes big. That is how it is supposed to be. That is what the work of the cross has accomplished for us.

Anyone who is a willing, living sacrifice is untouchable by anyone who chooses to harm them. Nobody can kill a dead person. A dead person has no life that would respond to another death. Threats have no audience. Arrows have no power. Fear is nonexistent.

Jesus was at total rest in His Father when Pilate threatened to take His life. He was far removed from any power that Pilate thought he had. He was in heart union with His Father who was the source of every conceivable power. Because of His love for His Father and for us, nothing of this world had a hold on Him or could threaten Him.

Our being asked to be living sacrifices gives untold delight to the heart of our Father God as we respond. As we respond, however, we benefit more than we can imagine. We enter into a rest that makes us untouchable by the powers of the lower kingdoms, just as Jesus was. When we become dead to ourselves, the Holy Spirit infuses Christ's life, with its freedom from anything the lower kingdoms threaten us with, in us. We are free in Him.

For thought or discussion:

What is real worship in your mind

Do you ever really worship God in a way that pleases Him