

# Live Like You Mean It

## Walk Like A Christian Series -1

### *Romans 12:1, 2*

#### Introduction

##### **Shackleton's Advertisement**

The following ad occurred in a London newspaper: "Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success." The ad was signed by Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer. Thousands responded instantly to the call. They were ready to sacrifice all for the elation of adventure and uncertain honor. Should God's children do less.

#### **Image Consultant: Fake it till you make it.**

What does it mean to be a Christian?

The previous 11 chapters was about what God has given you... now the focus changes to what you should be giving God...

Its that way with church... its that way with life ...

 **MacArthur:** Some years ago, a tearful and obviously distraught young woman approached me at a conference where I was speaking. She told me a story I have heard many times. "I just can't seem to live the Christian life the way I should," she said. "I'm frustrated. I don't have spiritual victory or a sense of accomplishment. I struggle with the simplest forms of obedience, and I'm constantly defeated. Can you help me?" I said, "What has been your approach to solving the problems yourself?" She replied, "I've tried everything. I've attended churches where they speak in tongues, have healings, and have all kinds of extraordinary spiritual experiences. I've spoken in tongues myself, had ecstatic experiences, been prophesied over, and experienced several supposed miracles. I've been 'slain in the spirit.' But despite all of that, I'm not pleased with my life and I know God isn't pleased. I've tried to get everything from Him that I can, but I'm not satisfied. I'm still miserable and want more." "I think you have just put your finger on the problem," I said. "The key to spiritual victory and true happiness is not in trying to get all we can from God but in giving all that we are and have to Him."

## Taking the Verse Apart...

A. The spirit of the apostle: "I exhort [urge] you."

Paul's passion... forceful, direct... gives the key to a productive and satisfying Christian life is not in getting more but in giving all. Through Christ, Hebrews tells us, we are to "continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name" (Heb. 13:15).

B. "The mercies of God."

The mercies of God of which Paul speaks here include the many gracious blessings, or grace gifts (cf. 11:29), that he has discussed in the first eleven chapters of Romans.

For instance: His Love, His Grace... Reflected in His Power to save ... His kindness and forgiveness of sin ... His freedom from them... His reconciliation toward Him in Justification in Christ... Conformation to His Son... promised glorification and eternal life. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit, divine sonship, righteousness, mercy ...

Should motivate believers to complete dedication! Not because they have to... but because of His Mercies....

## A Picture of Worship

Worship in the Mosaic Dispensation.

- The temple.
- The priesthood.
- daily ministry of sacrifice, prayers, service.

Worship in the New Testament Church.

- The church: made up of living stones, founded on Christ, the chief cornerstone, bound together by the cement of love, against which gates of Hades shall not prevail. The temple in which we serve.
- The priesthood: all believers, set apart to the ministry of God. Not sons of Levi or Aaron, but sons of God through new birth. (1 Peter 2:5)
- Daily ministry of sacrifice, prayers, service.

## Living Sacrifices

Description of our sacrifice.2

**Living.**

- Sacrifice under old law: life given in death.
- Under Christ: lives given only to be made more alive. Abundant life, eternal life —theme of the gospel.

 **Missionary Renounces Citizenship:** Dr. Thomas Lambie went to Ethiopia as a medical missionary. After some time he wanted to buy land for a mission station. An Ethiopian law said that no land could be sold to foreigners. Because Dr. Lambie had great love for Christ and the Ethiopians, he gave up his American citizenship and became an Ethiopian citizen. Then he bought the properties needed for his work. The U.S.A., glad to honour him because of his great work in Ethiopia, restored his American citizenship to Dr. Lambie.

### **Holy.**

- Old Testament sacrifice spotless and without blemish.
- An insult to God to present an unclean life in His service. Illustration: James 3:10, 11.
- Impossible for evil, adulterous, drunken, blasphemous, revelling generation to be saved from doom by an evil, drunken, blasphemous church.

### **Acceptable.**

- Sacrifices of Cain and Abel—one unacceptable, the other acceptable.
- Too many bringing thank offering before sin offering.
- Christ offered once for all as sacrifice for sin. Acceptance and appropriation of Christ necessary first, then presentation of our bodies as thank offering.

## **4 Aspects of the Living Sacrifice.**

### **• In Soul:**

Belong to God's family. No other offering is acceptable to God unless we have first offered Him our souls. The first element of "a living and holy sacrifice" has already been presented to God.

A non-believer cannot give God his body, his mind, or his will, because He has not given God himself. He's not even capable! Unable to do spiritually good... foolishness.

"For what will a man be profited," Jesus said, "if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26). The soul is the inner, invisible part of man that is the very essence of his being.

Therefore, until a man's soul belongs to God, nothing else matters or has any spiritual significance. Before anything else worthwhile and acceptable can be given to God, the self or soul must be given to Him in saving faith toward Jesus Christ for regeneration.

Until then... Cannot make an offering acceptable to God. Paul meant in (1 Cor. 13:3) when he said, *"And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing"*.

If a person does not possess the love of God, all of his offerings, no matter how costly, are worthless to Him.

- **In Body:**

To present their bodies to Him as a living and holy sacrifice. The Greek word, *paristēmi* (to present) was often used as a technical term for a priest's placing an offering on the altar. It carries the idea of surrendering or yielding up. (1 Pet. 2:5), Believers, as members of God's present "holy priesthood" are here exhorted to perform what is essentially a priestly act of worship. The first thing we are commanded to present to God is our bodies.

Since our souls belong to God through salvation, He already has the inner man. But He also wants the outer man, in which the inner man dwells.

### **Food in a dirty container...**

Our bodies, however, are more than physical shells that house our souls. They are also where our old, unredeemed humanness resides...

Where is the SOUL? Doctors and scientists can't find it...

Our humanness is a part of our bodies, whereas our souls are not. Our bodies therefore encompass not only our physical being but also the evil longings of our mind, emotions, and will.

Best way to explain this comes from (Rom. 7:5) "For while we were in the flesh," Paul writes, "the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death". There is a war going on!!! The body is still the center of sinful desires, emotional depression, and spiritual doubts.

**Interesting To Note:** Dualistic Greek philosophy still dominated the Roman world in New Testament times. This pagan ideology considered the spirit, or soul, to be inherently good and the body to be inherently evil.

In our own day, immorality is so pervasive, We have become tolerant of sin in fellow believers, thinking it merely was the flesh doing what it naturally did, completely apart from the soul's influence or responsibility and not trusting in God's power to completely change the person.... Paul taught that the body can be controlled by the redeemed soul.

Good created good... future redeemed bodies... presently should be made slaves to the power of our redeemed souls.

He cannot work through us without in some way working through our bodies. Hear/ears; See/eyes; think/brain; speak/tongue; help/hands; go/feet.

- **In Mind:**

It is in the mind that our new nature and our old humanness are intermixed [turmoil]. It is in the mind that we make choices [not illness, not addiction] as to whether we will express our new nature in holiness or allow our fleshly humanness to act in unholiness.

Be conformed is from *suschēmatisō*, which refers to an outward expression that does not reflect what is within. It is used of masquerading, or putting on an act, specifically by following a prescribed pattern or scheme (*schēma*). The verb itself is passive and imperative, the passive indicating that conformation is something we allow to be done to us.

Firm command is that we are not to allow ourselves to be conformed to this world.

 **Movie: Crazy on the Outside... “I’m like like that.” but was! Choices**

World here represents the sum of the demonic-human philosophy of life

It is not uncommon for unbelievers to mask themselves as Christians. It also is not uncommon for Christians to wear the world's masks. Fashion, Music, Goals, Priorities... living is wholly unacceptable to God.

Be transformed. The Greek verb (metamorphoō) connotes change in outward appearance and is the term from which we get the English metamorphosis... Jesus transfigured... Christ's inner divine nature and glory were, for a brief time and to a limited degree, manifested outwardly.

Our inner redeemed nature also is to be manifested outwardly, but as completely and continually as possible, in our daily living.

By the renewing of the mind, an essential and repeated New Testament theme. The outward transformation is effected by an inner change in the mind, and the Spirit's means of transforming our minds is the Word.

God's own Word is the instrument His own Holy Spirit uses to renew our minds, which, in turn, He uses to transform our living. Biblical counseling... discipleship... memory verses...

We are told to "let the word of Christ richly dwell within [us], with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in [our] hearts to God" (3:16).

The transformed and renewed mind

- It is a mind saturated with and controlled by the Word of God.
- It spends as little time as possible even with the necessary things of earthly living and as much time as possible with the things of God.
- It is set "on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Col. 3:2).
- Whether good or bad, when anything happens in our lives, our immediate, almost reflexive response should be biblical.

Only such a mind is able to make our lives "a living and holy sacrifice

- **In Will:**

When a believer's mind is transformed, his thinking ability, moral reasoning, and spiritual understanding are able to properly determine everything, and will accept only what conforms to the will of God.

Our lives can only prove what the will of God is by doing those things that are good and acceptable and perfect to Him.

Perfect [God's Standard] carries the idea of being complete, of something's being everything it should be. Our wills should desire only what God desires and lead us to

do only what He wants us to do in the way He wants us to do it—according to His will and by His power. Our imperfect wills must always be subject to His perfect will.

A transformed mind produces a transformed will, by which we become eager and able, with the Spirit's help, to lay aside our own plans and to trustingly accept God's, no matter what the cost.

This continued yielding involves the strong desire to know God better and to comprehend and follow His purpose for our lives. [measure, fruit, discipleship]

The divine transformation of our minds and wills must be constant. Because we are still continuously tempted through our remaining humanness, our minds and wills must be continuously transformed through God's Word and by God's Spirit.

## Conclusion

The product of a transformed life then that does the things God has declared to be righteous, fitting, and complete. That is our goal of a supreme act of spiritual worship. Imagine what a church of one hundred believers like this... Imagine what could be done for God!

### I See Myself

One day I looked at myself,  
At the self that Christ can see;  
I saw the person I am today  
And the one I ought to be.

I saw how little I really pray,  
How little I really do;  
I saw the influence of my life—  
How little of it was true!

I saw the bundle of faults and fears  
I ought to lay on the shelf;  
I had given a little bit to God,  
But I hadn't given myself.

I came from seeing myself,  
With the mind made up to be  
The sort of person that Christ can use  
With a heart He may always see.

Prayer: