

# Living Sacrifice

## Keith Shepherd

### I. The Act of Giving Thanks Is an Act of Worship.

Psalm 100:4 (NLT) *Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.*

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT) *<sup>1</sup>And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup>Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

### II. Sacrifice Is the Giving up of Time, Energy, and Resources to Something Else.

Romans 12:1-2 (TMSG) *<sup>1</sup>So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. <sup>2</sup>Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*

### III. How Can I Give Everything About My Life to God as an Offering?

Job 1:7 (NLT) *"Where have you come from?" the LORD asked Satan. Satan answered the LORD, "I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that's going on."*

Job 1:8 (NLT) *Then the LORD asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil."*

Job 1:20a (NLT) *Job stood up and tore his robe in grief.*

Job 1:20b-21 (NLT) *<sup>20b</sup>Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. <sup>21</sup>He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The LORD gave me what I had, and the LORD has taken it away. Praise the name of the LORD!"*

Job 1:21 (NLT) *He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The LORD gave me what I had, and the LORD has taken it away. Praise the name of the LORD!"*

#### A. I have to get outside of my human thinking.

2 Corinthians 5:16 (NLT) *So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!*

Romans 12:2a (TMSG) *Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.*

Romans 12:2a (NLT) *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*

#### B. Everything can become an opportunity to worship Him.

##### I. The question is, what do I choose?

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

2. I am not who I was!
3. We worship whatever we sacrifice to.

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT) *<sup>1</sup>And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup>Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

4. Holy = Other

1 Peter 1:16 (NLT) *For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."*

James 1:22 (NLT) *But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*

Romans 12:2b (NLT) *Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*