

ACTS 1:1-11

REVEALING^{THE}
KINGDOM^{OF}
GOD

The Kingdom Of GOD

Total Commitment to God

3. Offer yourself as a living sacrifice.

(Romans 12:1)



Chapter 12 starts with the word “therefore”. There is a causal relationship to the preceding verses.

It is because Elohim is so incomparably great, beyond our capacity to understand or imagine, and because all things belong to Elohim and are controlled by Elohim, that we should offer ourselves as living sacrifices.



Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of Elohim, that ye
present your bodies a living
sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto
Elohim, which is your reasonable
service.



Where he speaks of offering our body, I think what Elohim really wants is an offering of our whole self, of everything. We can't really offer him our body without offering our mind, will, emotions and spirit. They go together.



4. Be transformed by the
renewing of your minds.
(Romans 12:2)



Romans 12:2

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of Elohim.



I believe this transformation is basic to our life and growth in Messiah. In a sense this transformation is part of the way we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice. Our old self passes away and we become a new creation.



We die to Yahshua and Yahshua lives in us. We put off the old self, and put on a new self created in the image of Yahweh. It is only as we sacrifice the old that we can put on the new.



5. Then you will test and approve Elohim's good, pleasing and perfect will.



Here Paul makes the sequence absolutely clear. “Then you will be able to test...” He is saying that it is only after we have done two things -



(1) sacrificed our body to Christ, and
(2) been transformed by the
renewing of our mind-that we can
test and approve God's perfect will
for our lives. I would go a step
further and say that it is only after
we have done these things that we
can be sure we know what his
perfect will is for our lives.



B. OFFERING OURSELVES AS A SACRIFICE.



Let us now explore what it means to offer ourselves as a sacrifice and how we can do it.



(1) In one sense we have nothing to offer. Everything belongs to God. We have nothing to give. We have nothing that we can call our own. This is the ultimate spiritual reality.



But in another sense we do have something to offer. In worldly, material terms we have certain exclusive rights to various things. We can exclude any other humans from them. We also have something we call ourself, which we will not allow others to invade. Apart from God, this self (shabby as it may be) is our most precious possession. So we do have to be willing to give up something that we have considered of great importance.



(2) There is another sense in which what we offer is not a sacrifice, because what Elohim gives us in return is far greater than what we have given up. Yahshua used two images, of a man who found a great treasure buried in a field, and of another man who found a pearl of great price, the most wonderful jewel imaginable (Matthew 13:44-46).



Matthew 13:44-46

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.



Total
Commitment
to God

In each case he sold everything he had to acquire the treasure. Yahshua said the first man did this “in his joy”, and I think we can assume the second man did so also.



We, too, can find joy in the sacrifice that Romans 12:1 calls on us to make. In some cases, however, it may seem like a sacrifice at the time and the joy does not come until later.



In some cases, however, it may seem like a sacrifice at the time and the joy does not come until later. At any rate I shall, as Paul did, refer to it as a sacrifice.



1. Literally offering our bodies



Romans 6:16-22

