

2023 FOCUS MEETING MESSAGE

The word *dedicate* means to consecrate something or someone for a particular purpose of work. More specifically, **DEDICATE MEANS TO CONSECRATE ONESELF TO THE SERVICE OF GOD.**

Romans 12:1 KJV

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

[Romans 12:1 \(GNB\)](#)

1 Life in God's Service So then, my brothers and sisters, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.

In conjunction with his plea for dedication, Paul admonishes the saints to do THREE things...

“BE AVAILABLE SACRIFICES”

Romans 12:1 KJV 1900

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

To “present your body” means to make yourself **AVAILABLE** to God. Therefore, dedication requires that we be available for God's use. Yet, we cannot be available to God, until we stop being available to the world!

Romans 12:2 KJV 1900

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 God.

This is why our dedication in verse 1 is described as being “holy.” Paul is not using holy in the sense of being morally *pure*. He's using holy in the sense of being *set apart*. In fact, moral purity *grows out* of a life of dedication. Thus, you cannot be morally pure until you are first set apart (dedicated to God)!

“BE LIVING SACRIFICES”

Romans 12:1 KJV 1900

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

Paul admonishes the saints to be “living” sacrifices. This, of course, is opposed to being “dead” sacrifices. But, this begs the question: what gives “life” to our sacrifice or bodies?

Romans 1:17 KJV 1900

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

According to the Bible, we “live” by faith. Therefore, It is faith (or when we *believe* the gospel) that causes us to be *alive* unto God.

Romans 6:11, 13 KJV

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Unless we operate from the premise that we are alive unto God through Christ Jesus, the works that we perform will be *dead*.

Hebrews 9:14 KJV 1900

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Jesus’ blood has purged our conscience from guilt and fear. This is important because they (guilt, fear) are the source of *dead* works! Thus, any service that we fail to offer in faith (i.e. in condemnation, guilt or fear) is considered a “dead” work.

Hebrews 11:4 KJV 1900

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Because Abel offered his gift in faith, his works continued to speak (live) long after he died!

People wonder, “What’s the secret to commitment (dedication)?” The answer is faith! Anyone who lacks commitment (dedication), lacks faith.

People assume that a lack of commitment is sign of a lack of effort. (This is why people make promises to be more committed at the start of every year.) But, commitment isn't birth out of effort. It's birthed out of faith!

Psalm 27:13 KJV 1900

¹³ I had fainted, unless I had believed To see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Notice, we “faint” (cease to be committed) when we stop *believing!*

“OFFER SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES”

[Romans 12:1 \(ESV\)](#)

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Dedication not only involves living sacrifices, it also involves *spiritual* sacrifices! In fact, it's the Spirit that helps to bring life to our sacrifice.

2 Corinthians 3:6 KJV 1900

⁶ Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Paul is making a comparison here between ministry offered according to the “letter” (or Law) and ministry offered according to the Spirit. Any ministry that is offered according to the Law will ultimately administer death because the law is only able to administer condemnation and judgment. The Spirit, however, is able to minister life to people. (This is why it's important to always minister in the Spirit.)

This is the problem with most of the “ministry” we see by Christians today—it's void of the Spirit. Yeah, it may sound beautiful, it may even look splendid, but it lacks the Spirit. And, because it lacks the Spirit it's not the kind of worship (service) God desires!

John 4:23 KJV 1900

²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Notice, TRUE worship to the Father not only must be by the Spirit, but it must also be in *truth*, from the heart.

Matthew 15:8 KJV 1900

8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.

When you worship from your heart you are worshipping from your true self. You are not doing it for show (attention). You are doing it because you truly love God and because it's the right thing to do!

Colossians 3:22 KJV 1900

22 Servants, obey in all things *your* masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: