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Part 1 - Worship as a Living Sacrifice

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

I know we probably already know this, but worship is more than songs; it's a life surrendered to God as a living sacrifice, transforming our hearts and minds.

Tonight, over the next few minutes, I believe the lord would challenge us to do a few things, such as reflect on areas of our lives that need to be surrendered to God. Commit to offering yourself as a living sacrifice this week.

Introduction: Worship. A word often confined to the singing portion of a church service. But what if worship is far more than that?

Imagine worship as a lifestyle, a continuous act of gratitude, and a heartfelt surrender to the Creator.

Tonight I'd like to focus on a teaching that I've named: **"Worship: When the Natural Meets the Supernatural."** We will explore how worship is an all-encompassing way of life.

Worship is about living in a way that pleases God, not just on Sundays but every single day.

This morning, we gathered to praise, sing, and pray, and those moments are precious. Yet, worship is so much more profound and comprehensive.

It's an avenue through which our natural being meets the supernatural presence of God.

It's about the posture of our hearts, the attitude of our minds, and the actions of our lives.

This means ***“What’s flowing beneath the surface?”***

Psalm 51:17 – “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

The **heart posture** is about our **inner alignment**. Are we soft, surrendered, humble before God? It's not about having it all together; it's about being *open* to God.

Think of a satellite dish. If it's just slightly off-angle, it won't catch the signal. The heart works in the same posture, it's right, and heaven starts speaking clearly.

A right heart posture means:

- Bowed in **humility**
- Open in **obedience**
- Broken in **repentance**
- Anchored in **love for God**

The Attitude of the Mind – ***“What direction is your thinking leaning?”***

Romans 12:2 – “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Your **mindset** is the lens through which you interpret life.

God wants our thinking to be shaped by truth, not trauma... by Scripture, not society.

The Greek word for “mind” here is *nous* — meaning both understanding and moral reasoning.

In other words, **what you believe becomes how you behave.**

Metaphor: The mind is like the steering wheel of your life — it doesn’t power the vehicle, but it decides the direction.

A Christ-like attitude means:

- Choosing **faith over fear**
- Living with a **renewed perspective**
- Thinking on **what is pure, lovely, excellent** (Phil. 4:8)

The Actions of Our Lives – ***“What fruit is being produced?”***

James 2:17 – ***“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”***

A life aligned with God’s heart and renewed in mind will naturally flow into **godly actions** — compassion, truth, holiness, service.

Picture this: Your life is like a tree — the **heart** is the root, the **mind** is the trunk (what carries signals), and your **actions** are the visible fruit.

If the root is wrong, the fruit will be rotten. But when it’s healthy — oh, how the fruit blesses everyone around!

Godly action means:

- Living in **obedience**, not just emotion
- Practicing **justice and mercy** (Micah 6:8)
- Serving, giving, loving with **intentionality**

So what does it all mean?

Having the **right posture of heart**, the **attitude of mind**, and the **actions of life** means:

You're living from the inside out — not from the outside in.

It's letting the Holy Spirit flow **from heart (worship) → through mind (wisdom) → into action (works of love)**.

It's a surrendered life that says:

"Lord, shape my heart, renew my mind, and guide my steps."

Let's dive into what it means to worship God with our entire being, beginning with the concept of living as a sacrifice.

In Romans 12:1-2, the apostle Paul gives us a clear picture of this kind of worship.

He calls us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, as our true and proper worship.

Today, we'll explore what it means to live out this command and how it transforms our lives.

1. **Worship Through Surrender**

Romans 12:1 (NIV) **"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."**

Worship begins with surrender. Paul's urging to offer our bodies as living sacrifices speaks of a total commitment. In ancient times, sacrifices were slain; they were offerings given entirely to God.

As living sacrifices, we are called to give ourselves wholly to God, not in death but in life. Our worship should permeate every part of our being – our thoughts, actions, and desires.

Consider the story of a man who decided to live intentionally for God. He viewed every aspect of his life—work, family, hobbies—as opportunities for worship.

By surrendering his daily routines and decisions to God, he found a deeper sense of purpose and fulfillment.

This surrender isn't about losing ourselves but finding our true selves in God's will.

Tonight, I challenge us to consider areas of your life that need surrendering. It could be your career, relationships, or personal goals.

This week, choose one area and consciously offer it to God as an act of worship.

Understand this, living a life of surrender to God is foundational to worship.

When we give ourselves fully to Him, we open the door to a deeper relationship and a greater sense of His presence in our lives. This is the starting point of true worship.

2. Worship Through Transformation

Romans 12:2 (NIV) **"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."**

Worship involves transformation. Paul warns against conforming to the world's patterns and urges us to renew our minds.

This renewal is a supernatural act of God, aligning our thoughts and attitudes with His will.

Worship transforms us, making us more like Christ and enabling us to discern God's will.

Imagine a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly.

The process is slow and often painful, but the result is a beautiful creature with a new purpose and way of living.

Similarly, **as we allow God to transform our minds, we emerge with a renewed perspective, able to live out His will more fully.**

I believe the lord would have us to identify thought patterns or behaviors that need renewing. Pray for God's transformation in these areas.

Engage in spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, and meditation to renew your mind.

Understand this: transformation is a key element of worship. As we renew our minds, we become living testimonies of God's power and grace, capable of understanding and living out His will.

3. Worship Through Community

Romans 15:5-6 (NIV) **"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

Worship is also a communal experience. Paul prays for unity among believers, emphasizing that our collective worship glorifies God.

When we come together with one mind and one voice, our worship is amplified, creating a powerful testimony to the world.

Think about a choir. Each voice contributes to a harmonious and powerful sound.

Alone, a single voice is beautiful, but together, the voices create a symphony that is rich and full.

Similarly, our individual acts of worship are significant, but when we worship together, we experience a deeper connection to God and each other.

My prayer is that we seek opportunities to worship in community, whether through church services, small groups, or prayer meetings.

Encourage and support one another in your worship journeys, fostering unity and shared purpose.

Worshipping in community strengthens our faith and glorifies God.

As we come together with unified hearts and voices, we create a powerful expression of God's love and grace.

Conclusion: Tonight, we've explored the multifaceted nature of worship. It begins with surrender, is sustained by transformation, and flourishes in community.

Each aspect is vital to living a life of true and proper worship. As we surrender to God, allow Him to transform us, and join together in unity, we fulfill our purpose as worshipers of the Most High.

This week, examine your life for areas that need surrender. Allow God to transform your mind and seek out opportunities to worship in community.

As you do, may your life become a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, a true act of worship that transcends songs and services, reaching into every moment and every action.

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