

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer 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. - **Romans 12:1-2**

What does true transformed living for God look like?

Paul indicates it must involve three steps:

Step One: Offer your body to the Lord.

- In Christ your body is now the temple for the Holy Spirit.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. - **I Corinthians 6:19-20**

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. - **Romans 8:9**

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. - **Romans 6:13**

- We are to offer our bodies as "living sacrifices".
- Two examples of living sacrifices in the Bible:

1) Abraham and his son Isaac

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." - **Genesis 22:1-2**

Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. ⁹When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to

slay his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ¹²"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." ¹³Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." - **Genesis 22:7-14**

2) Jesus Christ:

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." - **Mark 14:35-36**

Step Two: Offer your mind to the Lord.

- The word transform has the same meaning as transfigure.
- It is where we get our English word "metamorphosis" literally a change from within.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ¹¹I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. - **Psalms 119:9, 11**

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. - **Galatians 5:16**

Step Three: Offer your will to the Lord.

"Your mind controls you body, and your will controls your mind."

Warren Wiersbe

So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty. - **Zechariah 4:6**