

REAL KINGDOM

PART FIVE | SERVING

Living



ARISE, SHINE

YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

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1. Intro

Isaiah 60 NIV The Glory of Zion

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. 2 See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. 3 Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”

2025 | Favour and Fruitfulness

“Do you want a successful, supernatural glorious and stunning year in 2025?”

Deny yourself, pickup your cross and follow Him



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Spiritual growth in 2025 | Fruit in 2025 –

- 1. The Word daily**
- 2. Prayer daily**
- 3. Community**
- 4. Serving**



4 key points from this series

1. Scripture should have the highest authority in our lives.
Greater than **Reason, Tradition and Experience**
2. Pray from **belonging**.
We come as **children** to our **Father**
3. 1 Cor 12:20 The way it is now, there are many parts, but it is one body.
You can't segregate your relationship with Jesus from the body.
Each member in the body has a function that **serves the body**.
4. God desires mercy, not sacrifice.
These disciplines will not secure eternity with God but they **serve our greatest gain**. John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

**What is the
most important question
to ask when it comes to
serving?**



God asks us to serve him – Old Testament

1. **Ex 23:25:** But you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water...
2. **Deut 6:13:** You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.
3. **Deut 10:12-13:** And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to Him, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul?
4. **Joshua 24:14-15:** Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord....
But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. 🙏



Joshua makes an appeal

- Joshua gathers Israel at Shechem to recount God's faithfulness.
- God called Abraham, delivered Israel from Egypt, and sustained them in the wilderness.
- He gave them victory over enemies and provided land and resources they did not earn.
- Joshua urges them to serve the Lord faithfully and abandon false gods.

On what grounds did Joshua make his appeal?



God asks us to serve him – New Testament

1. **Matt 4:10:** Jesus says, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."
2. **Luke 16:13:** Jesus teaches, "No servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."
3. **Rom 12:1:** Paul writes, "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. 🙏🙏"

Paul echo's Joshua's appeal to those who are in Christ



In part 1(2023) we looked at **what's on the altar.**

What do we present to God and when we looked at Cain and Abel we found that our offering is intrinsically linked to us.

Romans 12:1 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.

We did an exposition of the first half "what motivates our offering"



I appeal to you

An **appeal** is not a demand but a request. The law commands but grace urges. Consider the grace provided. It's based on the finished (accomplish?) work of Christ

therefor,

This is the dividing point in this letter... until this point God has done all the work for us now we get to work with him by **the Spirit – Rom 8**

- **The Spirit illuminates our minds**, enabling us to comprehend God's desires and plans (1 Cor 2:10-12).
- **The Spirit empowers us to live according to God's standards**, helping us to overcome sin and walk in righteousness (Romans 8:4, Gal 5:16-25).
- **The Spirit transforms our attitudes and motivations**, enabling us to live with a heart that desires to please God (2 Cor 5:9, Eph 5:10).



brothers (belonging)

Paul's appeal was to his **brothers** in the family of God, not to his servants.

You are adopted into his eternal family!

by the mercies of God,

The **by** in this phrase gives the ground of presenting ourselves to God. The basis, the foundation, the rock of our giving ourselves to the Lord is what He has done for us.

Mercies is in the plural indicating an unlimited resource of mercy from God.



to present [offer]

The Greek word “present” means offer, to place before.

Presenting is the language of **sacrifice**, in the Old Testament the word was used for offering a sacrifice at the temple. In this case we present the sacrifice of ourselves. We yield ourselves to God for whatever He wants.

your bodies

The body of the believer is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Co 6:19-20). The body in this context is the totality of our life and activity, the total person:

1. Soul – the part that either dead in sin or alive through Jesus Christ
2. Mind/Heart/Will – what source of authority dictates you desires
3. Physical body – the vessel of our soul and heart



The quality of our presentation

as a living sacrifice

Good news – Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament sacrifices requirements God asked of his people. **But the implication of a sacrifice remains!**

The Greek word *thysía*(sacrifice) refers to an offering or sacrifice that God prescribes and accepts when given on His terms.

Old Testament sacrifices seized to be what they were before being offered. On the altar it became God's possession for his enjoyment and purpose.

In the New Testament, the believer has become the sacrifice **BECAUSE**

Believers are now **dead to sin and alive to God** (Romans 6:11)

Paul calls believers to **offer themselves to God** (Romans 6:13)

God's mercy toward both Jews and Gentiles shows that salvation is not through the old sacrificial system but **through Christ's grace** (Romans 9:16, 11:30-32).



ARISE, SHINE

**Offering oneself to God
means relinquishing
personal ownership and
becoming His possession.**



Holy

The word “holy” means set apart.

Believers are to set their lives apart for God by the **power of the Spirit**.

This is how we operate as a “living sacrifice.”

As the **Spirit** illuminates, empowers and transform us through bible reading, praying and community we are God’s for His exclusive use.

We are holy unto his purposes and separate from the world in our 3 part body

and acceptable [pleasing] to God,

“Acceptable” is a compound word made up of two words: pleasing or approved and good/well. It is something well approved, eminently satisfactory to God.

2 Cor 8:12 For if the “*willingness*” is there, the gift is **acceptable** according to what one has, not according to what one does not have



which is your spiritual [reasonable] worship.

The word spiritual conveys the idea of reasonable, thoughtful service - worshiping God by offering ourselves to Him makes sense because of all He has done for us (Romans 9–11).

The term worship in this context, does not refer to public worship but rather to the personal devotion of an individual believer.

This spiritual/reasonable worship is rooted in divine logic, which is understood through faith. **By the Spirit through the disciplines.**

The believer perceives God's wisdom and responds in faith, making every offering to Him meaningful and eternally significant when done through divine persuasion.

Testimony





ARISE, SHINE

God requires..

Willing..

Sacrifices..

Let's Pray



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