*Wednesday, April 9, 2014*

**Living Sacrifice**

Romans 12:1-2 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. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (KJV)

Today let’s discuss a new way of looking at personal relationships through the eyes of the Lord and see how to handle them more effectively. I have seen and experienced for myself firsthand what it is like to be too emotionally attached to people without rightly dividing the word of truth on how to handle them. You will find that if you become too attached to someone it can pull you under like someone drowning.

Matthew 10:34-36 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. (KJV)

Our Lord wasn’t always a crowd favorite, even though one week they said hail to the King, the next they demanded His crucifixion.

Matthew 10:37-38 He that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that takes not his cross, and follows after me, is not worthy of me. (KJV)

I want to address this from the point of a parent, so that you can learn to be more effective when dealing with your children, because believe it or not our Lord’s way and mans’ way are like night and day. Many times we end up interfering instead of edifying when dealing with those that are closest to us in the flesh. We still hang onto old ways and emotions instead of learning to walk in the Spirit. We see a cross is mentioned above; like it or not we all have our own to bear. However, by learning how to die to the outward it will show you how the inward man would have you handle these areas.

Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself, and no man dies to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. (KJV)

Having been a parent I realized that when a child comes to the age of accountability I have to let go and give them over to the Lord. I realize that they are really not my child so much as the Lord’s; and when I can separate the flesh and spirit I can offer them more encouragement spiritually instead of caving into the emotions of the flesh.

1 Corinthians 7:21-23 Art thou called being a servant? Care not for it: but if thou may be made free, use it rather. 22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. 23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. (KJV)

The reality is that I am not the one that died on the cross and provided salvation for those closest to me or anyone else. The truth is no matter who they are or how close I have been to them in the past; they are the Lord’s, not mine. The more I realized that the better I was able to handle the situations that would arise with them.

God bless dearly loved, and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.