

**A Living Sacrifice**  
**Part II**  
**February 4, 2018**  
by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

**Romans 12:1-2**

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.  
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.

Last week we examined God's invitation to us that we become living sacrifices for His glory.

Today we are going to learn a little more about what being a living sacrifice entails.

Becoming a living sacrifice unto the Lord is what many Christians talk about but few ever seem to do; it is **giving your life to Jesus**.

Giving your life to Jesus is not something you do nor is it something you did when you got saved.

Oh, people say things like, "When I was 11 years old, I gave my life to Jesus" as they try to relate the time of their salvation.

Let's look for a minute at what condition we are in before we are saved:

The fact is:

**Ephesians 2:12** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

The fact is that at that time:

**Ephesians 2:5** ... we were dead in sins ...

The fact is:

**Romans 5:6** For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

The fact is: You don't get saved by giving your life for Jesus, you get saved by Jesus giving His life for you!

**Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...

The fact is: This idea of “giving your life to Jesus” is one of the most common ways people actually miss salvation!

We here at Lighthouse know what the Bible says about how to be saved.

We know that Jesus alone does the saving.

We know that salvation is not of ourselves.

We know that Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried and that He rose again after three days and three nights according to the scriptures

We know that the one and only requirement once we know Who He is and what He has done for us is that we place our trust in Him to save us.

Examine for a moment this commonly preached idea that to be saved you are to give your life to Jesus.

A typical scenario:

The gospel is preached, the conviction of the Holy Spirit is strong and Sam the sinner wants to be saved.

Sam goes forward in the invitation and tells the counsellor or the preacher, “I want to be saved, what must I do?”

He is told to pray this prayer known as “The Sinner’s Prayer”... So Sam repeats what he is told to pray.

“Dear Jesus, I repent of my sins and I ask you to come into my life. I give my life to you Lord, please save me, in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Now, let’s examine what really happened:

“Dear Jesus, I repent of my sins.”

Not only does Sam NOT know what that means, he doesn’t quit sinning that day, nor did you when you really did get saved.

Here in this prayer Sam asks Jesus to save him, like he probably has many times before, and is likely to do many times again.

Asking is not trusting. Why would anyone who genuinely puts their trust in Jesus to save him continue asking Jesus to save him?

The very fact that you would ask Him again and again to save you solidly proves you did not trust Him to do it.

Not only is there not trust, in ignorance Sam is offering his life to Jesus in exchange for saving him.

Giving your life to Jesus is something you do AFTER you are saved as you acquire spiritual strength from the Lord to do so and the knowledge and wisdom to even know what it really means.

The desire to live your life for Jesus may well show up on the day you are saved, but the strength to do it comes over time.

The first step in becoming a living sacrifice unto the Lord would obviously include making sure that you are spiritually alive.

Once you are sure of your salvation and clearly desire to give your life to Him, there are primarily two areas of your life you will lay on the altar (which is your Church), which we learned about last week.

These two areas of sacrifice are:

One, **your spiritual gifts**, which are specific to each individual believer.

And two, **your spiritual characteristics**, which are specific across the board to every believer.

Before we address this first area of spiritual gifts, I need to point out that spiritual gifts today are not what they once were...and for good reason.

In the early days of the Churches we know of as primarily Gentile Churches, many types and kinds of spiritual gifts were needed for those Churches and the chosen leaders within them to be proven genuine.

Many of these spiritual gifts were of a miraculous nature, and thus subjected those endowed with these miraculous gifts to great temptation of misuse as well as being lifted up with pride.

### **1 Corinthians 12:7-10**

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

I Corinthians Chapters 11 through 14 are primarily a scathing rebuke from the Apostle Paul as to how the Lord's Supper (as well as many of the spiritual gifts of the membership) was being abused and misused.

In these chapters, we are told three key facts we need to know concerning spiritual gifts:

1. Some spiritual gifts are better than others;
2. Some spiritual gifts are to be sought above others;
3. Miraculous spiritual gifts such as tongues, healings and miracles which exalt the individual more so than to edify the Church will soon cease within the Body.

**1 Corinthians 14:12** Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may **excel to the edifying of the church**.

**1 Corinthians 12:31** But **covet earnestly the best gifts**: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

**1 Corinthians 13:8** Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

There are **nine** categories of spiritual gifts listed here in I Corinthians; some of which we are told will cease.

**A few years later** when Paul writes his letter to the Romans, there are now seven spiritual gifts listed, and now none of those miraculous gifts are any longer a part of the Lord's gifts to His Churches.

We were told this was coming:

**1 Corinthians 13:9-10**

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But **when that which is perfect is come**, then that which is in part shall be done away.

It is especially interesting to me that now there are 7 spiritual gifts given by the Lord to each of His Churches.

It does not escape my attention that 7 is the number of perfection and completion.

It is these 7 gifts that have carried the Lord's Churches all the way as now it stands; **"even to the end of the world, Amen."**

Now we are ready to look at:

## I. Your Spiritual Gifts.

*A. Before we get into the gifts themselves, there is something important we should clarify.*

1. Who is the giver of these gifts?

a. This one is easy: the giver is the Lord.

b. Specifically the Holy Spirit.

**I Corinthians 12: 8** For to one is given by the Spirit...

2. Who is the receiver of the gifts?

a. Is it the individual Christian?

b. Not really, the gift is given to the Church.

c. The Church is clearly defined.

**Romans 12:4-5**

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

3. What actually is the gift?

a. **It's you!**

b. You, who are endowed with one or more of these extraordinary abilities, are one of the Lord's gifts to Lighthouse Baptist Church.

*B. There are seven spiritual gifts from the Lord that give us everything we need (A perfect system) to prosper and succeed as a new Testament Church.*

**Romans 12:6-8**

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, *let us wait* on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

The seven spiritual gifts are:

1. Prophecy. (preaching).

2. Ministry. Diakonia = serving.
3. Teaching. Teaching (duh).
4. Exhortation. Encouragement, building up.
5. Giving. Giving (duh).
6. Ruling. Presiding over (leading).
7. Mercy. Compassion.

*C. So, does every believer have at least one of these spiritual gifts?*

1. I can't actually say that I know from scripture that every believer truly possesses one or more of these gifts.
2. I can say, however, without doubt that every believer has the potential of possessing one or more of these gifts.
3. We are told not only to seek spiritual gifts, but to seek the best gifts.
4. These seven are the best gifts; they now are the only spiritual gifts.
5. Are some better than others?
6. That I cannot say; they all are of great necessity which seems to me to put them on the same plane together.

**Conclusion:**

**Over the next two sermons I plan to share with you what exactly these seven spiritual gifts are, how they work and the responsibilities that come with them.**

**I believe with the knowledge that is coming, you will be able to determine your specific gifts and how the Lord wants you to use them...to sacrifice them for the building up of His Body.**

**What I have learned has brought me to believe that you can have for sure at least one of these gifts which you can in turn give to the Church.**

**You could have more than one.**

**When you see next week what these gifts really are and how they work; I believe you are going to seek more than one.**

**I believe it even possible that a believer could have them all.**