*Monday, April 7, 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 ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (KJV)

A living sacrifice almost sounds like an oxymoron; two things combined which are complete opposites. When you accept salvation and decide to walk with the Lord, you find that His ways and thoughts are so much higher than ours; at least they are when we allow it. A living sacrifice means we show up before our Lord, willing to live in the Spirit today because we have denied the desires of the flesh. You can’t have it both ways, you are either with Him or you are against Him; in between just doesn’t cut it.

Leviticus 17:11-12 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul. 12 Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourns among you eat blood. (KJV)

In the Old Testament we see that God required sacrifices in order to cover up the sin of the people. When the animal was killed, it released the spirit by the shedding of the blood which drained the life out of it. Today the same principle still holds true; when you die to an area of the flesh our Lord says is a hindrance, it releases the Spirit so that it can take over and He can have His way in you. This is what presenting ourselves daily is when it comes to being a living sacrifice, willing to die to self so that we can live unto the Lord.

Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. (KJV)

In your life before Christ you were taught to look out for number one which was self. Today that no longer floats with our Lord because He doesn’t desire to see us wresting with flesh and blood any more. Those that are truly going to bear the fruit of the Spirit are the ones that are willing to lay down their lives for others so that the life of Christ can manifest in them. So today when going before our Lord, are you giving Him someone to work with and through, or have you already made up your mind on how you think salvation works?

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