



## Rhythms (Habits the Change You and the World)

Part 3

Romans 12:1-8

Sunday, September 20, 2020

The only way we can develop the rhythm of service is by allowing God to transform our minds to see, hear, and work for the sake of the gospel and love for others.

The church is a movement, not a destination. Maybe we need to ask one another how the church is expanding the ministry through your life. We can experience so much more when we allow Christ to work in us and through us.

### Setting the Scene

- How Can I Pray for you? Have you asked to pray with people God brings in your path? How are we doing with praying for you people in our community and our goal of praying for 1000 homes?
- The purpose of this series is that each one of us would incorporate spiritual rhythms to make us available to be changed and used by God.

<sup>33</sup> Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!<sup>34</sup> For who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice?

<sup>35</sup> And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?<sup>36</sup> For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen. Romans 11:33-36

### Cultivate a Heart of Service

#### 1. **Worship Cultivates a Heart of Service (Romans 12:1-2)**

- "**Give** your **bodies**" - Give (present) daily tasks. "Bodies" – The Whole person ( Whole mind, whole body, our whole being)
- Present- priestly term- offer your sacrifice at the altar. The offering is you. The offering on the altar is living rather than dead. The main problem with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar.

*The Greek word for "transformed" (metamorphousthe) is the root for the English Word metamorphosis. Believers are to experience a complete transformation from the inside out. And the change must begin in mind, where all thoughts and actions begin.<sup>1</sup>*

- Christian service is the result of us surrendering our will's to God. It is an act of Worship. We can only serve with a pure heart after He renews our mind. **God's** will is what is good, what is pleasing (to God), and what is perfect for each believer. Christ-followers who are being transformed, who know and do God's will, also discover that what God plans for them is good, pleasing to God, and perfect for them.

**Service** *The Greek Word used here, latreia, commonly refers to priestly duties in the temple (Heb 9:1, 6). Believers do not operate in a physical temple but are themselves God's temple (1 Cor 6:19). They offer themselves because God has made them a holy priesthood (1 Pet 2:5, 9).<sup>2</sup>*

- Undistracted
- Unselfish
- Unwavering

<sup>1</sup> Barton, B. B., Veerman, D., & Wilson, N. S. (1992). *Romans* (p. 231). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (Ro 12:1). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup>Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6

- Right thinking leads to right actions and then right feelings

## **2. Working on behalf of the body cultivated a Heart of Service (Romans 12:3-5)**

- Think humbly. Worship should never be mindless. Amusement (n.) 1640s, "diversion of attention,"
- The call is to engage and work for Christ.
- In this, Paul is addressing Jewish people who think they are better than gentiles. They are both dependent On God's grace. Christ-followers thinking of themselves as better undermines the growth of the church.

*We are called to bear that image as a Body because any one of us taken individually would present an incomplete image, one partly false and always distorted, like a single glass chip hacked from a mirror. But collectively, in all our diversity, we can come together as a community of believers to restore the image of God in the world.—Paul Brand*

- We are called to engage and work for Christ.

## **3. Gifting Cultivates a Heart of Service (Romans 12:6-8)**

- Serve Him as you use the gifts God has uniquely given you. (1 Cor. 12&14 and Eph. 4)
- You are empowered to make an impact.
- Notice Paul mentions the gift and then the heart behind the gift.
- Realize that all gifts and abilities come from God
- Understand that not everyone has the same gifts nor *all* the gifts
- Know who you are and what you do best
- Dedicate your gifts to God's service and not to your success.
- Be willing to utilize your gifts wholeheartedly, not holding back anything from God's service

### **Last Thoughts:**

- Ask God to show you his glory first thing in the morning.
- Pray and ask God, "What do You want me to do today?"
- Fight against the pressure to conform to this world.
- Fight to renew your mind through the Word.

Your assignment this month is to reach out to a ministry leader in our church or an organization in our community and volunteer.