

# Guard Your Heart

Romans 12:1 I urge you, [b]rothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

## ● Your Worship is more than a song

- Your worship is your life
  - When we submit to God and allow him access into every area of our lives he is pleased
  - When there is openness, sincerity, surrender God is pleased
  - You offering God a sacrifice
    - When you resist temptation
    - When you humble yourself and refuse to be prideful and arrogant
    - When you confess your wrong and ask forgiveness, refusing to hide sin
    - When you keep your eyes on God through circumstance and trial
    - When you serve people who don't deserve to be served
  - IF our lives are not pleasing to God Monday through Saturday, our Sunday song won't matter.
  - Offer yourself as a living sacrifice

## ● Your worship is powerful

- Because it takes faith to worship God, to see beyond the now
- Faith in Jesus makes all the difference
  - When bills are coming and you don't have money
  - When you get a bad report from the DR
  - When your loved one is in an accident or sick
  - It takes faith to call out to God and declare him faithful and good.
  - That faith in Jesus overcomes the devil, it overcomes every season you'll face
- Your worship is powerful
  - In the book visions beyond the veil
  - Angel of God being attacked by demonic angels was witnessed by beggar Chinese children. The angel worshipped God and a great light came and other angels of God came to fight and deliver
    - Your worship is your breakthrough
    - It's how you overcome
  - Your worship is powerful,
    - Your worship elevates God above you, above your situation.
    - You're worship helps you lift your eyes from the temporary, looking to the eternal

## ● Fire / Sacrifice

- What is Worship
  - English Definition
    - To notice, give special attention to it.
    - To look at, consider worthy of respect
    - To receive with favor

- Respectful devotion - Involves devotion / Commitment
- Deep Respect
- To submit to
  - Worship without submission, commitment and respect is not worship
  - Strange fire
    - Leviticus 10:2 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. [2] And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.
  - Saul making sacrifice
    - 1 Samuel 13
    - Saul the king through pride offers a sacrifice and it was not accepted by God. Worship, Sacrifice without submission is a stench before God.
- When your life is mixed with the things of this world, when you live a life that isn't surrendered to God, you'll produce strange fire
  - What does your life and your worship smell like to God?
  - If you dwell upon negativity in your mind, if you talk through made up conversations with people who you are bitter towards, if you assume that everyone doesn't like you, if you imagine that people are talking about you, you are polluting your mind and your worship will stink
  - Cleanse yourself, humble yourself, surrender the bitterness and self hatred. Experience the love of Jesus and you'll finally be able to put those things to rest. When you are surrendered and dependent your worship will change the atmosphere
  - John 12:3 Then Mary took about a pint[a] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
- What you put in the fire, dictates how it smells
  - Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
  - 2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ, and through us spreads and makes evident everywhere the sweet fragrance of the knowledge of Him. 15 For we are the sweet fragrance of Christ [which ascends] to God, [discernible both] among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;
- - Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. 24 Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. 26 Give careful thought to the[c] paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.
  - What does that actually mean
  - Relationships, media, thought life,

## ● Worshipping something

- John 4:23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- God longs for us to stop focusing on the man-made, earthly, temporary facets of worship
  - This woman was focused on religious structures

- Denominations, styles, traditions of men
  - Jesus was talking about life change, life change that transforms how we worship
- I Israelis had made their worship to God about so many things
- You have to be in a specific place, only at church, my church
- You had to have Holy objects, altars, pillars, trees,
- You had to have Religious men to perform services
- You had to worship on certain days,
- You had to perform certain tasks, rituals, acts of purification, follow dietary laws
- Jesus was speaking of the day when his sacrifice would fulfill the old testament law and the Holy place would be available to anyone who called on his name.
  - Worship should be different for us
  - The difference in how you talk about an acquaintance and how you talk about your spouse. More personal, more detailed and knowledgeable, more intimate and caring.
- Attention
  - You know someone is interested by their eye contact
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- Passion
  - Passion shows itself, it's evident to others, noticeable
  - The excitement of watching sports
- Devotion
  - In the long hours of work, completing a project
  - In the practice of a hobby
- Passion shows itself, it's evident to others, noticeable

## ● **What is the something**

- Media
- Sports
- Hobbies
- **Proskuneo is to kiss the hand of a superior - Greek**
  - An intimate intentional act towards someone you are submitted to and respect
  - You care about their opinion
  - You are willing to show your worship with action
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- **Shachah to bow down before - hebrew**
  - Close relationship between bowing and worship...Respect common denominator
  - They would bow in respect to people and bow and worship God
- **Halal**
  - Halal means Praise - Yah means Yahweh Together it's Hallelujah
- David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord's people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes." 2 Samuel 6:21-22
  - Means to shine or flash to draw attention
  - Not to ourselves but to who God is and what he's done

- It means to boast, brag on God, Child bragging on his dad
- Means to act like a fool...Our praise of God should be so bright and full of joy that we may appear the fool before others.

## ● **What are you pursuing**

- What the heart delights in The thoughts dwell upon...Thomas Watson
- John 6:66 As a result of this [h]many of His disciples abandoned Him, and no longer walked with Him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve [disciples], "You do not want to leave too, do you?" 68 Simon Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go?"
- What do you look to when there is a pause?
  - When we are sad, empty, bored, restless,
  - To whom do you go?
- Avon - Iniquity / Sin. The word is made up of 3 symbols
  - Eye being opened, Hook, Group of fish / multiplying
  - What the eye hooks to, will multiply
- What are you looking to? What are you hooked to? It's a form of worship.
- Magnify **Megalunō**
  - 1) to make great, magnify
  - 2) metaphorically to make conspicuous
  - 3) to deem or declare great
  - 4) to esteem highly, to extol, laud, celebrate
  - It's only after we magnify God that true praise worship comes
  - What are you magnifying in your life?
    - Stress, worries, problems, doubts
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  - Acts 10:46 They spoke in tongues and magnified God
- Do a review of what excites you
- Guard your heart
  - Analyze the root of why you enjoy something
  - Is your life in submission so that your worship is pleasing before God?
  - Am I coming to God as His servant? or do I come as an equal?
  - Am I willing to submit to His commands?
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