

How To get Ready for Worship
Sunday April 23, 2023 / 2 Iyar 5783

ROMANS 12:1-8

[To stretch one's spiritual muscles to make them more limber, as before exercise.
limber up. stretch. loosen up. warm up.]

[The Biblical Pattern is to relate doctrine and duty, for what you believe must determine how you behave.]

When you go to a play, or a concert, or a movie, or a ball game, you have every right to expect to be entertained. But not when you go to worship. That's not what worship is about. We have to get past the idea that worship is, above everything else, "something that I do for me, to make me feel good." Worship isn't *about* you. And it isn't about *me*. It's not even about *us*. Who is it about, then? I think the answer is obvious. **Worship is our time to give to God that which he is due.**

Romans 12:1 (KJV)

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.*

Romans 12:2 (KJV)

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.

Romans 12:3 (KJV)

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:4 (KJV)

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

Romans 12:5 (KJV)

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

Romans 12:6 (KJV)

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;

Romans 12:7 (KJV)

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

Romans 12:8 (KJV)

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.

Three Attitudes that we need to adopt to prepare ourselves to enter Worship.

1. An Attitude of _____ . V.1

A. What we are to offer (12:1) Bodily dedication.

1. The Reason for this (12:1b) It is to be done because we have experienced God's mercy.

2. The Results of this (12:1a) God is pleased if we offer a living and holy sacrifice.

2. An Attitude of _____ . Vv.1,2

A. What we are to avoid (12:2a) Worldly Contamination

B. What we are to achieve (12:2b) Godly Transformation

3. An Attitude of _____ . Vv.3-8

A. The Grace. (12:3) Be honest in your estimation of yourselves.

B. The Gifts. (12:4-8)

1. The Illustration concerning these gifts (12:4-5)

Paul likens spiritual gifts to members of the human Body.

2. The Identification of these gifts (12:6-8)

Seven Spiritual gifts are listed.

a. Prophesying (12:6)

b. serving (12:7a)

c. Teaching (12:7b)

d. Encouraging (12:8a)

e. Giving (12:8b)

f. leading (12:8c)

g. Showing kindness (12:8d)

CONCLUSION

Before we can enter worship, we need to prepare — like an athlete prepares for competition, like a musician prepares to perform.

Like an athlete, we may need to stretch out ourselves a little bit. And like a musician we need to get ourselves in tune with God's Spirit. Because if we just walk in off the street unprepared, if we just jump into each day of our lives unprepared, we're liable to pull the spiritual counterpart of a cramp and find ourselves sitting on the bench.

If we come to worship without checking ourselves spiritually first, we're likely to come in and say, "What's the least that's expected of me? And what can I get out of this? And what can you do for me?"

This may be the attitude of some church people, but it's not the attitude of worship.

Instead, our attitude needs to be:

What's the most I can offer?

What's the most I can give?

What's the most I can do?

Worshipping God means that you give to him that which he is due, and this begins in the pregame, as you make sure that your heart is ready and that your spirit is in tune with God's Holy Spirit.

1. Surrender 2. Sacrifice 3. Service