

Dear Friend,

I am seeing such an important difference between Romans chapter twelve, verses one and two:

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.

Verse one is really speaking of us winning the war against the flesh. It is talking about mortifying the deeds of the body and bringing it into submission to “Christ in us,” our reborn human spirit, which is created in righteousness and true holiness, as Paul said in his letter to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

In the same way that living according to the first five chapters of Ephesians is what prepares us for the spiritual warfare in the heavenlies described in chapter six, so Romans 12:1 is about winning the war against the flesh to the point that we can truly present our bodies “holy” to the Lord. Then, and only then, is our body acceptable for Him to take up permanent residence within us.

Don’t get me wrong. He can use baby, carnal, fleshly Christians in the gifts of the Spirit, but the Father desires to take up permanent residence (make his abode) in those who have matured to the point they “keep His commandments” and present their bodies holy to the Lord for His use.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

The Greek word for “abode” is G3438 and means: residence, mansion.

Jesus used the same Greek word in John 14:2 when He spoke of there being many “mansions” in the Father’s house. The Greek word translated “mansion” simply means “a staying place, a residence, a room.” Jesus has prepared a room for you to live in God’s mansion in heaven.

YOUR BODY IS A ROOM IN GOD’S MANSION ON EARTH. Jesus prepared a room for you in the Father’s house in heaven. You prepare your body to be a room for the Father to dwell in on earth. That is ... IF ... you keep His commandments and present your body HOLY unto Him so it will be ACCEPTABLE for HIS USE.

Notice in Romans 12:1 that “YOU” present YOUR BODY ... HOLY ... ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD! YOU do it. Christ has empowered you to be able to do it through the new birth when you received Christ’s nature of righteousness instead of the sin nature you first received from Adam.

Romans 12:2 is for those who have accomplished the victory in verse one. This would be somebody like Peter who was already leading a holy lifestyle. We have no record of him being involved in any sort of fleshly sin like getting drunk, sexual immorality, or the like. Peter had already been presenting his body holy to the Lord, and the Lord had been using him mightily.

1. Preached on the day of Pentecost and 3,000 were saved.
2. Used to do a notable miracle to heal the lame man at the Gate Beautiful.
3. Preached that day and 5,000 were saved.
4. God would heal the sick that lay in the way as Peter's shadow passed by.

God wanted to use Peter in an even greater way than this, but Peter had a life-long stronghold of wrong doctrine in his mind. Peter did not believe Gentiles could be saved. Peter had to have his mind renewed by the Holy Spirit through the vision he had on the rooftop. [Acts 10:9-16] After seeing that vision, Peter's mind was renewed, and God was able to use Peter to open the door of salvation to the entire Gentile world.

The salvation of the Gentiles has been going on now for two thousand years. That open door of salvation to the Gentiles has resulted in the greatest harvest of souls for Christ in the history of the world. It began with a single man and the Holy Spirit, together on a rooftop, when a life-long stronghold came down, and his mind was renewed to the truth.

Said another way, Romans 12:1 is about the war with the flesh, as described in Galatians chapter five.

Galatians 5:16-25 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (18) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. (19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) 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.

Until the flesh is brought under dominion to Christ within, a person is not ready for true spiritual warfare. The same truth is written in the first five chapters of Ephesians, which prepares a person for the spiritual warfare described in Ephesians chapter six.

Romans 12:1 is about overcoming the flesh. Romans 12:2 is for people who have accomplished victory over the flesh. Nobody is perfect, but any Christian can walk above sin once they mortify

the deeds of the body by bringing it into subjection to Christ within. Paul did not waiver regarding this truth. **We have been made free from sin!**

Romans 6:18-23 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. (19) I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. (20) For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. (21) What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. (22) But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. (23) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

At that point the Holy Spirit can begin dealing with renewing the mind regarding the true calling of the believer. This often deals with pulling down strongholds of wrong thinking, just as Peter had to be set free from his life-long belief that the Gentiles could not be saved. Romans 12:2 is about renewing the mind in order for the believer to be about the Father's business in their personal calling.

You might consider yourself to be a young Christian, still battling with sins of the flesh. EXPECT GOD TO USE YOU TODAY IN THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT! God can use you TODAY if you "covet earnestly the best gifts," as Paul exhorted us to do in 1 Corinthians 12:31. But there is a "more excellent way," and that is to mature to the point you overcome the flesh and its unholy desires and allow the nature of Christ to come to the forefront in you.

If you are a mature Christian, you are no longer a slave to fleshly sins. If you are daily living holy, and presenting your body a living sacrifice, acceptable for the Father to take up His abode in you ... EXPECT GOD TO USE YOU TODAY SO THAT HIS WILL CAN BE DONE ON EARTH JUST AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME! REVIVAL IS NOW! EXPECT GOD TO USE YOU TODAY!

Your fellow servant for Christ,

GARY