

NEW YEAR,
NEW YOU



Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

DAILY SACRIFICE TO GOD

- Λογικός (logikos)- Carefully thought through
- Λατρεία (latrea)- Service/Worship
- Jesus came to be our door to God and bring abundant life.
(John 10:9-10)
- His sacrifice made us holy (set us apart).
- God wants us to use our new life to serve Him daily.
- He wants us to be TRANSFORMED not CONFORMED!

CONFORM

Everybody's doing it.

CONFORMED TO THE WORLD

- "I am the most important."
- "I will use my talents for my pleasure."
- "I will love only those that are beneficial to me."
- "I will hurt you if you hurt me."

SATAN'S ROMANS 12:3-8

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think too highly of others than they deserve; but to think so as to have sound judgment in your own eyes, according to how you feel. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so some are more useful to society. Since we have gifts that differ according to our own hard work and intelligence, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to what the buyer wants to hear; if service, tell the needy to get a job; or he who teaches, only if he is making what he feels is fair; or he who exhorts, only if people are willing to return the encouragement; he who gives, only when the gift can be returned...never mind the needy, God didn't like them anyway; he who leads, with only when people will offer him undying allegiance; he who shows mercy, with skepticism.

SATAN'S ROMANS 12:9-21

Let love be whenever profitable and convenient. Abhor inconvenience and imposition; cling to what is good in your own eyes. *Be* devoted to one another as long as there is something to gain; insist on being given preference in everything; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in confidence, serving yourself; rejoicing in hope, giving up when things get tough, praying when convenient or not at all, contributing to the needs of your own retirement fund, imposing on the hospitality of others. Lash out at those who persecute you; give them a 5-knuckle blessing. Envy those who rejoice, and shun those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another as long as everyone agrees with you; humility is for the weak, but don't waste your time with the lowly. You are as wise as you think you are. Treat people the way they treat you. Respect those who respect you. If possible, so far as it depends on others, be at peace with all men. Take your own revenge, don't wait for God *of God*, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the one in charge. "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, IGNORE HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, POINT OUT WHERE HE CAN BUY A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL NOT WASTE ANY OF YOUR POSSESSIONS ON HIM." Overcome evil how ever you feel it is right.



BE TRANSFORMED

Romans 12:2

CHANGE IS NECESSARY

- World's Priority -vs- God's Priority
- Transformation starts with renewing the mind.
- This change requires the entire person.



HUMILITY

SERVING THE PURPOSES OF GOD AND OTHERS (PHIL. 2:3-4) FOR THE GLORY OF GOD (1 COR. 10:31) WITH THE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU (ROM. 12:3).

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Romans 12:3-5

YOU'RE MORE IMPORTANT

- Σωφρονεω (sofroneo)- prudent, focus on self-control, reasonable, sensible, serious, keeping one's head
- It's hard to lack unity when considering others before ourselves. This requires a cool head tempered with self-control.
- We are all different but included in the same Family.

Gifts

Given by God

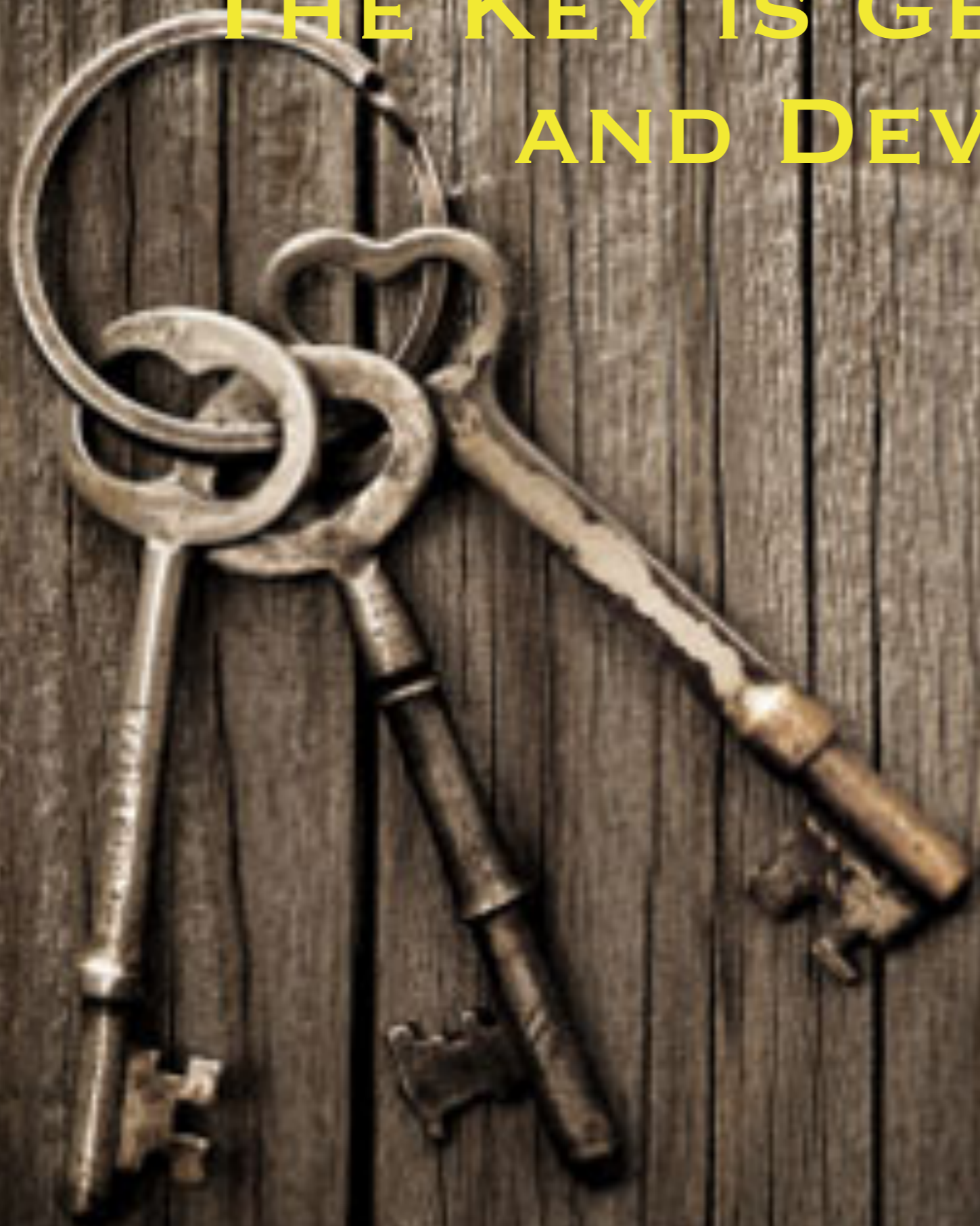
Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:6-8

GRACIOUS GIFTS TO USE

- Only 1 of the gifts mentioned is miraculous. The rest are available to everyone!
- These gifts can be developed and strengthened the more we use them.
- We will find some abilities easier to use and develop than others.
- God wants us to use what He gave us in His service.

**THE KEY IS GENUINE LOVE
AND DEVOTION.**



Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Romans 12:9-16

LOVE IS THE FOUNDATION

- God wants us to be "real" in our dealings with one another.
- God wants us passionate in our service.
- He wants us dedicated to helping the Family of God.
- If we truly love someone, cursing them will be nearly impossible.
- He wants us to empathize with one another because of our love for each other.

Take it easy, I'll handle it.

- God

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. “But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:17-21

WISDOM IN ACTION

- We are called to a higher standard.
- Respecting someone does not necessarily mean we agree with their actions.
- God's vengeance will be perfectly distributed. Man often goes too far out of anger.
- By taking care of our enemy's needs, we show them the love of God.

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Romans 5:6-11