



Portion:

## SCRIPTURES

- Romans 12:1-8
- II Peter 1:5; Romans 5:1-2

Title:

## BEYOND SALVATION

- Reasonable & Perfect
- Grace in Action

## SEED:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is **your reasonable service**. And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be **transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that **good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**” Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

## FRUIT:

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue, to virtue knowledge,” II Peter 1:5 NKJV

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 NKJV

## INTRODUCTION TO TODAY’S MESSAGE:

*Picture the scene. You have just encountered Y’shua. He has become your Lord and Savior and you feel truly free for the first time in your life. The moment you became a Christian is one you should savor, one to look back upon in utter appreciation and amazement every day for the rest of your life. Your old life is dead and buried and your new life is stretched out before you. There is quite literally nothing more exciting. But what now?*

*To be clear, the cost for you to have apprehended such a gift was absolutely zero. It cost you nothing, but what it cost Y’shua was much more than your human mind can fathom. Not only did He willingly surrender His life as a man, but it is critical you acknowledge what He had to first surrender to become a man. He left His position with the Father and His form which was Spirit. Then, He made a permanent decision that would prevent Him from ever returning to that position and form. That portion of His sacrifice dwarfs the mere surrender of His human life.*

*Now that you have some idea of the magnitude of what it cost Him, maybe you can better appreciate that surrendering your whole life for Him in return is just a speck compared to what He surrendered for you. You’re born-again, so what now? God’s expectation is that you give over your life to Him*

*to such a degree that you could be compared to a sacrificial animal whose neck was slit, blood drained, inner parts disemboweled, and body disassembled into pieces, before being burned in the flames until nothing but ash remained. Give your life to God like that and your reward is a little pat on the back, indicating what you've done is simply reasonable. It's nothing extraordinary; it is, nevertheless, the only way to walk in the perfect will of God!*

*There is only one possible way to live this way. And that makes it certain that your eyes are open, your heart is receptive, and your ears are very attentive right now. God's grace! Your first encounter with God's grace, whether you recognize it or not, was when it softened your heart to receive salvation. By grace through faith you were saved, it was a gift from God. Then you arrived at this point; you're born-again, what now? This is when you take that free faith and put it into practice. Your practice of faith then gains you ongoing access to the very grace that softened your heart in the first place. You must use that grace to animate, motivate, and empower every choice you make from this point forward!*

*Up to now this all seems so personal, so individualistic. But it's all for one larger cause. Each one of us who has arrived in this place must unify in such a way that we are performing like one being; this unified body is what the scripture calls the Body of Christ. Each one of you must embark on a journey beginning at salvation and learn to continually access God's grace. This is how to discover your individual gifts and calling—in other words, what part you play. Finally, you must add your small, but indispensable part, to the whole Body of Christ. That is a life of living sacrifice. Live as such and it is merely your reasonable service to God, a small price to pay for what He paid for you!*

## REASONABLE & PERFECT

### 1. The Expectation

#### A. **Nothing Extraordinary**

##### (1) A Living Sacrifice

(a) I "beseech you!" I fervently and ardently beg you! It's urgent you get this!

1. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is **your reasonable service.**" Romans 12:1 NKJV
2. "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but **brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel**, taught according to **the strictness of our fathers' law**, and was zealous toward God as you all are today." Acts 22:3 NKJV
3. "For **I am already being poured out as a drink offering**, and the time of my departure is at hand. **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." II Timothy 4:6-8 NKJV

4. **"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live,** but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NKJV
5. "Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away;** behold, all things have become new." II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
6. **"I been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live,** but Christ lives in me..." Galatians 2:20 NKJV
7. "If anyone desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross,** and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, **but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**" Matthew 16:24-25 NKJV

## **B. Prophetic Outtake**

- (1) When you realize the true price He paid for your salvation, you will understand why offering your life to Him as a living sacrifice is merely reasonable.
  - (a) Understanding the Law of the The Hebrew Servant. It's about a final permanent choice!
    1. **"Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them: If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever."** Exodus 21:1-6 NKJV
  - (b) Not only did He willingly surrender His life as a man, but it is critical you acknowledge what He had to first surrender to become a man and become a bondservant.
    1. **"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God [God is Spirit], did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men [a Human Body]. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV
  - (c) Messiah as a Bondservant: Let this mind of Christ be in you... a bondservant who volunteered to give His life FOREVER, never again able to go "FREE"! When?

1. "And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, **"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."**" Luke 22:41-42 NKJV
- (d) He chose to stay and that is the price He paid; the true price of your salvation!
  1. "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For **you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**" I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV

### C. God's Perfect Will

- (1) Nobody does it better.
  - (a) Paul packs mounds of theology into once sentence.
    1. "And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be **transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect will of God.**" Romans 12:2 NKJV
    2. "**For God so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For **God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**" John 3:16-17 NKJV
    3. "**Do not love the world** or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And **the world is passing away, and the lust of it;** but he who does the will of God abides forever." I John 2:15-17 NKJV
    4. ""**If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me** before it hated you. **If you were of the world, the world would love its own.** Yet because **you are not of the world**, but I **chose you out of the world**, therefore the world hates you." John 15:18-19 NKJV
    5. ""I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me **out of the world.** They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. "I pray for them. **I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me,** for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. {11} **Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom

You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. {14} **I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.** {15} **I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth." John 17:6-19 NKJV

6. "for the equipping of the saints...for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to ... a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;" Ephesians 4:12-13 NKJV
7. "But we have the mind of Christ." I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV
8. "...bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." II Corinthians 10:5
9. "Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and **He was TRANSFIGURED before them. His face shone like the sun,** and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three TABERNACLES: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."" Matthew 17:1-4 NKJV
10. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation; old things have passed away;** behold, all things have become new." II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
11. For "**who has known the mind of the Lord** that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**" I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV
12. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,** and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV
13. "Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, and KNOW HIS WILL, and approve the things that are excellent [superior], **being instructed out of the law,**" Romans 2:17-18 NKJV
14. "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night." Psalms 1:1-2 NKJV

15. "Then He said to them, "Therefore **every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom** of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.""  
Matthew 13:52 NKJV
16. "For **this is the will of God, your sanctification**: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor;" I Thessalonians 4:3-4 NKJV
17. "And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; **nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.**"" Luke 22:41-42 NKJV

## GRACE IN ACTION

### 2. Two Faiths

#### A. The Gift and the Practice

(1) Don't get haughty!

(a) A Measure of Faith

1. "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think soberly, as **God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.**" Romans 12:3 NKJV
2. "Pride goes before destruction, And **a haughty spirit before a fall.**" Proverbs 16:18 NKJV
3. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God,**" Ephesians 2:8 NKJV

#### B. One Body

(1) Unity of the Faith

(a) One Body Many Parts

1. "For as we have **many members in one body**, but **all the members do not have the same function**, so we, being many, are **one body in Christ**, and individually **members of one another.**" Romans 12:4-5 NKJV
2. "'I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that **they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, **that the world may believe that You sent Me.** And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one: {23} I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.**"" John 17:20-23 NKJV
3. "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing

with one another in love, **endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."Ephesians 4:1-6 NKJV

4. "Finally, all of you **be of one mind**, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing." I Peter 3:8-9 NKJV
5. "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be **perfectly joined together in the same mind** and in the same judgment." I Corinthians 1:10 NKJV
6. "Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, **be of one mind**, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." II Corinthians 13:11 NKJV
7. "**Be of the same mind toward one another.** Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion." Romans 12:16 NKJV
8. "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, **being of one accord, of one mind.**" Philippians 2:1-2 NKJV
9. "Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, **but they had all things in common.**" Acts 4:32 NKJV
10. "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and {23} **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, and that you put on the **new man which was created according to God**, in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:17-24 NKJV
11. "**bearing with one another, and forgiving one another**, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, **which is the bond of perfection.**" Colossians 3:13-14 NKJV

12. "By this all will **know that you are My disciples**, if you have **love for one another.**" John 13:35 NKJV

13. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren **to dwell together in unity!**" Psalms 133:1 NKJV

### C. Differing Gifts

#### (1) Practical Living Instructions

(a) We have entered into some of Paul's best practical living instructions, and he does so whilst he practices, on us, his own gift of exhortation.

1. "Having then **gifts differing according to the grace** that is given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or **ministry**, let us use it in our ministering; he who **teaches**, in teaching; he who **exhorts**, in exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness." Romans 12:6-8 NKJV

2. "For by **grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV

3. "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue, to virtue knowledge," II Peter 1:5 NKJV

4. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV

5. "and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us** who believe, according to **the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV

6. "**Grace** and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as **His divine power has given to us** all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue," II Peter 1:2-3 NKJV

7. "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**" Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

(2) Paul's sentiments from his first letter to the Corinthians magnify the idea of what some of these irrevocable gifts and callings look like.

(a) Think of them as things that accompany salvation...

1. "But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, **yes, things that accompany salvation**, though we speak in this manner." Hebrews 6:9 NKJV



(b) Here in I Corinthians we see the gifts Paul introduces as spiritual gifts—these too “accompany salvation.”

1. **“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:** You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. **There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God** who works all in all. But the **manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. **For as the body is one and has many members,** but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? **But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.** And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of **the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor;** and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. **And God has appointed these in the church:** first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers?

Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? **But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.**" I Corinthians 12:1-31 NKJV

(3) Gifts NOT Offices

(a) It would also be good to note here that the gift does not confer an office or title. For instance, you are not a prophet because you have the gift of prophecy.

1. **"But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.**

Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) **And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:7-12 NKJV

2. "It is required in stewards that one be found faithful." I Corinthians 4:2 NKJV

3. "...present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is **your reasonable service.**" Romans 12:1 NKJV