

Transcription – Bible Study – Romans – Chapter 12

And we were studying the last time Romans 9, 10 and 11. I'm not going to rehash really any of that now, because they were three pretty intensive studies on it all together. And I know a lot of you were not here when we started the book of Romans, but it's a really an amazing book. Romans is like almost the Bible within a Bible.

And when you start out with Romans, how Paul is dealing with these people that are a strong congregation, but have some problems. And he's trying to deal with them, with their problems and show them the difference between YAHWEH's sanctification and His justification. And that's going on at least the first probably seven, eight chapters. And then all of a sudden, we get into chapter 9, 10, 11 and it's a total turn on the tribes of Israel and what YAHWEH is doing in the tribes and like we saw last week, the redemption of the tribes.

But now we get to chapter 12 and again it takes another turn, completely different. It's as if 9, 10, 11 didn't even exist. And remember, as Paul is writing this, he's not writing the book of Romans with chapter 1 up to chapter 16. It's a letter. He's writing a letter to these people. So maybe it's a little unfashionable that a letter would turn at points, but I guess if you're writing to a congregation, you have so many things you're writing, you might want to put, write A, B, C, D.

But now we're hitting in a whole new point. A whole new point in chapter 12, talking about **spiritual gifts** that Paul is going to talk about. So I think what I'll do is I'll read the chapter first, so we can get a flow of what is being said here and then after reading it, we'll go back and we'll break it down and start studying it verse by verse. He says:

Romans 12:1-3 *Therefore, brethren, I call on you through the compassion of Elohim to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to Elohim, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this age ... And literally it says, and do not imitate the world. That's literally what the Aramaic says ... but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is the good and pleasing and perfect will of Elohim. For through the grace which is given to me, I say to everyone being among you, not to have high thoughts beyond what is right to think. But set your mind to be right-minded, even as Elohim divided a measure of faith to each.*

Romans 12:4-8 *For even as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, so we the many are one body in Messiah, and each one members of one another, but having different gifts according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, according to the proportion of the faith; or the gift of administration in their ministry; or the one teaching, in their doctrine; or the one consoling, in the encouragement; the one giving, with sincerity; the one that rules with diligence; the one showing mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Romans 12:9-17 *Let not your love be deceitful, hateful, that which is evil, hold fast to that which is good, in brotherly love to one another, loving fervently, having gone before one another in honor; in diligence, not slothful, fervent in spirit, serving the Master; in hope, rejoicing; in affliction, enduring; in prayer, steadfastly continuing; imparting to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality. Bless those persecuting you; bless, and do not curse. Rejoice with rejoicing ones, and weep with weeping ones; minding the same thing toward one another, mind not vain glory, but associate with those who are humble. Do not become wise within yourselves; returning evil for evil to no one; providing right things before all men.*

Romans 12:18-21 *If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men; not avenging yourselves, beloved, but giving place to wrath, for it has been written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says YAHWEH. Then "if your enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirsts, give him drink; for doing this you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome the evil with good.*

And then when we get into chapter 13, which will be the next study, it's a whole different subject again. He's talking about *let every soul be subject to the higher authorities* [Rom 13:1] and talking about judicial order to one degree or another. But Roman 12 almost seems like a short letter within the letter, if we look at it. It really has nothing to do with the 11 chapters before it and not so much to do with the chapter after it.

But a very important chapter with a lot of things that's here. And one good thing about Paul, like we always say, let the Bible interpret the Bible and *Isaiah* [28:10,13] tells us, *here a little, there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept*. And if you really study Paul's epistles, you'll find out that in many epistles he says the same thing, but a little differently. Which helps us, because when you see something said in one epistle, you could read it in another epistle.

It's like the four good news messages, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Some people might think, oh, why do you need it four times? The synoptic good news of Matthew, Mark and Luke. But to me, I love it, because when you take a story in one and you read it in another, even sometimes one little word that could be different can add into that story.

So, it's like if there was an accident outside and you had four eyewitnesses and they were all honest, good people, but everyone would tell the story a little differently. And by putting it in together, that's the way you come to the truth. So praise YAHWEH for this, and we'll do that. And the chapter here will go particularly to Corinthians 12 a little later when we get into the spiritual gift aspect of it. But I want to start out in verse one and two, which are really, maybe, two of the most profound verses that Paul writes in any epistles.

Romans 12:1 *Therefore, brethren, I call on you through the **compassion of Elohim** to present **your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to Elohim, which is your reasonable service.*

It's really interesting. We use this scripture a lot when we're comparing the Levitical order to the Melchizedek order. And we know the Levitical order was a shadow of things to come. It's shadow of Melchizedek, there's many things that we could look at in the book of Numbers, in the book of Leviticus, where we can see Yahshua in there and the red heifer.

But the one thing that really stands out in this scripture is where he's comparing the two priesthoods. But we know in the one priesthood, there's a sacrifice of animals and here he's saying we're to be a *living* sacrifice. But it doesn't just say a living sacrifice. He says, *holy, pleasing to Elohim*, holy, kadosh. *Kaddashah* in the Aramaic, set apart to YAHWEH. I was thinking about it, because in the Levitical order, an animal has to physically be without blemish. But an animal can't be ... what we would think of as holy, in a mindset.

So, here's a big difference in the two priesthoods. The Levitical priesthood is where yes, you couldn't bring an animal that was blemished or whatever. But really it's the idea of the priesthood. It's what the priesthood stands for that really is set apart. But an animal isn't holy, it doesn't live a righteous life. You wouldn't pick an animal for a sacrifice and "Oh, he was one of the best animals you ever wanted to know. He helped all these animals. Whenever there was a cow that needed help, he was the first cow that was there. He was always giving his fodder to the other cows, because maybe the cow didn't have fodder, maybe he didn't even have a mother. Who knows?" But with us, it doesn't work that way.

So, here it is. We have to just look at this when we're comparing the Levitical line. We have to realize that it's not just about the sacrifice. It's about us being a living sacrifice, meaningly, that for us to be, like I said, an animal simply had to be physically without blemish to be able to be picked by the priest. But for us, we have to be living holy lives. We have to be living lives that were acceptable and pleasing to YAHWEH.

And he says, *which is your reasonable service*. Of course it is. I mean, man, of course it is. Everything Yahshua did for us, His sacrifice, His humiliation, His beating and His suffering and death, so that your sins can be paid for. I think that is a reasonable service that we do this.

So really, really important verse. To me, one of the most important verses in all the New Testament, because it really defines in what direction we should be going in as a believer. Believe it or not, many believers, particularly new believers, they really don't know what direction to go in. What does YAHWEH expect of me? What am I supposed to do at this point? Here is our first calling point that we are supposed to *present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to Elohim, which is our reasonable service*.

And where again in Hebrew, the word for sacrifice, "korban", you are killing the animal, you are giving up something that is precious to you in order to what? To draw closer to YAHWEH. And isn't it the same with our calling? Because we are not killing an animal, but we are dying to the flesh. We are giving up things that could have been sacred in our lives, like maybe television or a job or sports or some kind of hobby we had or even our money, whatever it is, that we are laying all this at the throne of YAHWEH. And that is our reasonable service.

That there is nothing. We are drawing closer to YAHWEH by sacrificing everything of the flesh. And then we are becoming living sacrifices. We are living it daily. We are letting Yahshua change us. We are allowing Him to live in us and to become this. And then He says:

Romans 12:2 *do not be conformed to this age ... And like I said, the Aramaic literally says, do not imitate the world. Do not imitate the world ... but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is the good and pleasing and perfect will of Elohim.*

I am not going to go too much into this, because next week, YAHWEH willing, I have a whole sermon on it, on 'Taking every thought into captivity'. But what I do want to say is, this is something that should not just be a good idea, it shouldn't just be something. This is something. This is the part that is **life changing**, that literally, this evil mind that we have, this human nature, this nature that is contrary to YAHWEH, as we saw in chapter 7 and chapter 8, can be transformed into the mind of Messiah. I mean, it is not only possible, **it is definite**. It is not even probable, it is **definite** as long as we sacrifice. As long as we submit to YAHWEH and sacrifice that our mind, we'll be renewed to the very mind of YAHWEH and Yahshua.

Romans 12:2b *in order to prove by you what is the good and pleasing and perfect will of Elohim.*

So, sometimes people say I don't know if it is YAHWEH's will for this. I don't know if it is YAHWEH's will for that. Well, when you surrender your will to His will, you know His will. You know His will, because He will talk to you. He will talk to you through His Word. He will talk to you through His Holy Spirit. He will talk to you in prayer. And you will know it.

Very few times in my life have I not heard the voice of YAHWEH in one way or another. And when that time comes I get nervous, because every day of our life we should be hearing the voice of YAHWEH. It should be so loud. It should be so fervent. It should be speaking to us daily and then like He says here, we will know *the good and pleasing and perfect will of Elohim*.

And I always say, I know that YAHWEH is perfect, but I know I am not. So, even though I know a thousand percent He might be talking to me, I don't always have the best hearing. I did landscaping 15 years and my hearing isn't always good. I don't always hear things exactly right and that's why sometimes you have to test the spirits. So what do you do? You step out on faith and you allow, you test the spirits.

And if YAHWEH wants you to fear a little bit, He'll do it, because we have to believe like it says in **Romans 8:28**, *all things work for the good*. But if you're sitting back and thinking that YAHWEH is going to pull you with a rope, it isn't going to happen that way. You're not going to know His perfect will until you step out.

Romans 12:3 *For through the grace which is given to me, I say to everyone being among you, not to have high thoughts beyond what is right to think. But set your mind to be right-minded, even as Elohim divided a measure of faith to each.*

And we're going to see this, **the greater the faith, the greater the gifts**. The greater the faith, the greater the gifts. And I believe it's almost impossible to be filled with faith and also be filled with pride. Because faith ... what is faith? **Hebrews 11:6**. To have faith you must believe that YAHWEH is. You have to believe with all your heart, your mind, your soul and your strength, that YAHWEH is. And these are the reward of those who diligently seek Them. And if you believe He is, the rest is easy.

But if you really believe He is, it's kind of hard to have pride, because if you believe He is, then you know when you are. It's that simple. And the way the pride comes in, is that we don't know who YAHWEH is. We're lacking in faith, in what pride is in our life. Because there's no way that you can stand in the presence of YAHWEH and one hundred percent believe in everything He says and have any pride in your life. It's just it's impossible to do it if you're a true believer.

So, the greater the faith, as we'll see, the greater the gifts of the Spirit. And that's why I say, sometimes people ask, why aren't there more gifts? And I say, because we can't handle them. We can't handle them yet. These gifts should be automatic. It should be automatic as we get into the spiritual gifts that they're there. But as I always say, you have to have the fruit before you have the gift. The gift is an outward extension of the nine fruits of the Spirit as we'll get into. And if you don't have the fruits of the Spirit, you're not going to have the gifts of the spirit.

So, we're lacking in gifts, because we're lacking in fruit and we're lacking in fruit, because we're too immature. Because we're not surrendering to YAHWEH. Because it should be automatic. Again, these are the fruits of His Spirit. If His Spirit is living in you, these fruits should be manifest. And it's a great way, we've talked about this at Passover, it's a great way to examine yourself before YAHWEH. Because if for some reason one of these gifts are lacking, you know there's a problem somewhere. And even worse than that, if you're reading the fruits of the flesh and you have something there,

then you really know what is stopping your fruits of YAHWEH.

Romans 12:4-5 *For even as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, so we the many are one body in Messiah, and each one members of one another,*

And the big thing that Paul is trying to show here, as we'll also see in [1st] **Corinthians 12**, is two things. He's trying to show number one, that we're a body. And like he says in Corinthians, we'll read the whole chapter in a little bit. Can the pinky say to the foot, I don't need you? Can the arm say to the shoulder, I don't need you? Of course not. You're a body. You need every part of your body.

So, there may be parts of that body that don't seem as important. And sometimes, like the old expression, the squeaky wheel gets the most grease, you know? And the fact that somebody is more vocal, the fact that I'm sitting up here and I'm the spokesman for YAHWEH and people of the world will hear my voice, it doesn't mean that necessarily I'm the most righteous. It's just that more people hear me and more people see me.

But they don't see the little widows that might be sitting in their room, 18 hours a day praying to YAHWEH. They don't see those people that might be working hard as a dog for 14 hours a day and giving as much money as they can to the work of YAHWEH. They don't see those people that are sacrificing, maybe even giving their life for YAHWEH. They don't see it.

So, Paul's trying to make this point. That, yes, is there judicial order? Absolutely, there's judicial order. But simply because somebody is in a higher position of authority, doesn't make him more important in the eyes of YAHWEH or the eyes of anything. It's just a different position. Now I say that, a policeman, you know, we're to respect authority. Policemen are there to help. Policemen are there to keep order. But their life is not more valuable than the person who's sweeping the floor. That to YAHWEH, we're all part of one body and the head of that body is Messiah.

So here it is. It's a scary thought, we talk about this. They're talking about not only doing head transplants, they're talking about doing full body transplants. Now of transplanting a mind, a brain of somebody to another body and having a whole body transplanted. So, it's almost sound like science fiction, some of these things they're doing.

But in reality, the reality is that Messiah is the head of the body and we're all members of that body. That's the analogy that he gives. So, wherever we are in that body, whether we're a pinky or a little hang nail, wherever we are, we're part of that body and we're necessary. And we should never, ever belittle, degrade, or ever put anybody down in the body of Messiah, because you're only putting down yourself. Because we're all part of that body.

And like I say, with any group and I've owned businesses, I've done a lot of leadership things, any group is only as strong as the weakest link. It's that simple. So, when I'm a leader of a group ... what I want to do is, I want to enhance and encourage the weakest link that they're not weak anymore. Because if the weakest link falls, like dominoes, it's going to go around.

And I'll tell you something. While everything is good and pleasant, you might think, oh, those strong people never fall. But you watch as the weaks start to go, the strong can go right after them. So we're only as strong as the weakest link and that's why we have to encourage every single person in the body of Messiah.

We have to look for each other's gifts. We have to encourage these gifts, because there's no more importance in reality in the eyes of YAHWEH of any of us, because of the job we're doing. Now there is more responsibility. I'll grant you that, the chair I'm sitting in as the leader of the congregation from Jerusalem, there's a great responsibility on my shoulders and *much is given, much is expected. The more is given, the more is required.* [Luk 12:48] And I realized that. But my value is worth no more than anybody else. So, we want to take our responsibility of our job, but we want to realize that when it comes to YAHWEH, our worth, we're all equal. Then he says in verse 6:

Romans 12:6-8 *but having different gifts according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, according to the proportion of the faith; or the gift of administration in their ministry; or the one teaching, in their doctrine; or the one consoling ... or exhortation ... in the encouragement; the one giving, with sincerity ...* Okay. So, if you have the gift of giving, there's no hidden motives. You're not doing it to jockey up on a list. You're not doing it to have your name put on some wing of a hospital. You're doing it in all sincerity ... *the one that rules with diligence; the one showing mercy, with cheerfulness.*

So, here it is. He's giving us, saying all these gifts, number one, are YAHWEH's. And it says the Holy Spirit puts these gifts in us according to as YAHWEH's sees fit. So there's no boasting to having a gift. There's responsibility to having a gift. And we have to use these gifts to what? The glory of YAHWEH.

And like he says, everyone you're using, *administration in your ministry; or teaching, in doctrine; consoling, encouragement; giving, and sincerity, one ruling with diligence, the one showing mercy with cheerfulness*. So, everything's got to be done with the right attitude. No hidden motives. Everything is done with the right attitude.

Let's go to [1st] *Corinthians 12*. So, I want to stay on spiritual gifts here for a bit. It's one of my funnest parts of the Bible school. When we get to that point, it's usually after about a month of going over spiritual gifts. Because so many people come and they say, "I don't know who my gift is. I'm not sure what my gift is." I say, "Don't worry." We're doing this school 11 years. Nobody has ever walked out of that door without knowing what their spiritual gift was and having a plan of action to use it.

I can't tell you that everybody followed through with it. But I can tell you that every single person, and I make sure of it, there is not a person who walked out of the school **ever** who did not know what their gift was and didn't have a plan of action to use it. And that's a good thing. And shame on the people if you didn't use it. There's nothing I can do about that. But it's exciting to find out your gift. It's exciting. And the way we do it is very unique. But it always works. 1st *Corinthians 12*, he says,

1st Corinthians 12:1-6 *But concerning spiritual gifts, my brethren, I want to remind you. That once you were pagans and without exception, you were led to dumb idols. Because of this I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of Elohim says, Yahshua is a curse. And no one is able to say Yahshua is YAHWEH, except by the Holy Spirit. And there are diversity of gifts, but there is only one Spirit; and there are diversity of ministries, yet YAHWEH is first. And there are diversity of powers, but the same Elohim is working all things in all.*

1st Corinthians 12:7-10 *And to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit as a help to him. For through the Spirit is given to one a word of wisdom, and to another a word of knowledge, another according to the same Spirit; and to another, faith by the same Spirit, and to another, gifts of healing by the same Spirit, and to another, workings of powers, and to another, prophecy, and to another, discerning of spirits, and to another, different kinds of languages, and to another, interpretation of languages.*

1st Corinthians 12:11-14 *But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing separately to each as it wills. Even as the body is one, and has many members, but all the members of the one body, being many, are one body, so also is Messiah. For also we all were baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jews or Arameans, whether slaves or free, even all were given to drink into one Spirit. For also the body is not one member, but many.*

1st Corinthians 12:15-18 *If the foot says, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, on account of this, is it not of the body? And if the ear says, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, on account of this, is it not of the body? If all the body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If all hearing, where would the smelling be? But now Elohim set the members, each one of them, in the body, even as it has pleased Him.*

And that's why I say, **Exodus 16** [verse 7-8], murmuring against YAHWEH, when you're not satisfied with the gift that YAHWEH gave you, you're criticizing Him, you're not criticizing man. When do you usurp the authority? YAHWEH is the one that said a woman should not usurp the authority of a man, and be in that kind of position. And when a woman does that, she's fighting YAHWEH, she's not fighting man, it's that simple.

If somebody says, "Oh, I want to be the teacher, I wish I had that gift of teaching," YAHWEH didn't give it to you, you're usurping. So, what we want to do is, we don't want to focus on the gifts we don't have, we want to focus on the gifts we have, and we want to **use them** to the betterment of the whole body. Because if you ever worked in team management, you know that a team can only work if everybody's utilizing all their skills together. You know, synergy.

So, you might think your skill is not the best. Maybe you're on the assembly line, your skill is putting that little plug in at the end. But without that plug, everything that was in, whatever you're making is all going to fall out of there. So all of us have gifts that YAHWEH has given, and you want to know something? It really don't matter. Because whether you have the gift of healing the sick, or you have the gift of speaking ten languages, or you have the gift of miracles, I don't mean

too many people that have the gift of miracles, but you have the gift of miracles in relation to YAHWEH, in relation of what we're going to be when Yahshua returns, it's nothing.

We're human beings now. We're so limited. And all YAHWEH is doing by these spiritual gifts for testing us. He's testing us to see number one, if I give you one gift, how will you use it? And will you give Me the glory for it? So that's all it is. So it doesn't matter if you have in your mind, oh, I just got a small gift, it doesn't make a difference. What matters is **how faithful** are you being with that gift that's given to you? That's the only thing that matters.

I'll tell you something. From the time I came into the congregation, 32 years ago, as a young man, I never thought of being in leadership. It never even crossed my mind. I was just so overwhelmed that YAHWEH would take somebody like me, as a young guy in the world, and take me into His congregation. I was just awed. I was absolutely awed. None of my family was in the congregation. Nobody came in.

But He opened my mind and made a relationship with me. And to me, all that matter, how can I help? How can I help, you know? And if I was setting up chairs, I'd want to do them all right. And I'd want them to be the best, because I want to show YAHWEH, You can give me any job you want and I'm going to do it the best I can. It doesn't matter what the job is.

So, the point of it is, whatever ability you have from Him, number one, like I said, He gets all of glory anyway, and it's only a test. It's only a test, but I can tell you one thing. The things I learned back then gave the ability of what I'm doing now, because I'd never be in this position if I didn't learn those things, if I didn't understand what it is to be humble, if I didn't understand pride, like I said, pride is a facade.

I can't imagine how any human being could think they're worth anything without YAHWEH. It's nonsense. And it's Satan putting these thoughts on our mind and the more you learn it, the more you learn to be humble, the more you learn patience, the more you learn diligence. And the more you're faithful, the more that YAHWEH can use you more in the body of Messiah. And the only reason I want to be used more is because I want more fruit to be born for YAHWEH. That's not the only way to do it with me. It has to do with Him and it has to do with what He's doing.

Just like Yahshua have said, He could raise up rocks [Mat 3:9, Luk 3:8]. And I always said that, boy, the day that all of us should be sighing and crying, if you ever walked out of your house and you saw a rock preaching the good news ... Because that would mean we're not doing our job. So, this is what it's about. It's about taking your calling seriously and focusing on what you have, what you're given, and simply using it to the best of your ability.

1st Corinthians 12:18-22 *But now Elohim set the members, each one of them, in the body, even as it has pleased Him. But if all was one member, where would the body be? But now, indeed, many are the members, but it is one body. And the eye is not able to say to the hand, I have no need of you; or again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. But much rather the members of the body seeming to be weaker are necessary.*

1st Corinthians 12:23-26 *And those of the body we think to be less honorable, to these we put more abundant honor around them. And our uncomely members we dress with greater care. But our comely parts have no need for attention. But Elohim tempered the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member having need, that there not be division in the body, but that the members might have the same care for one another. And if one member is in pain, all the members suffer with it. If one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

But there's no jealousy, there's no envy. When somebody's suffering, we're all suffering together. And one person is being honored, we're all being honored together, because we're one body. We're one body. And we have to think that way.

We have to think that way, that it's like an assembly line. We all have our part, but at the end of the day, the same way, even if I'm going and I'm meeting somebody in the government or somebody, I'm never thinking that I'm going there on my own. You know what I'm thinking about? I'm thinking of all the people that are praying for me. I'm thinking of all the people that are there with me. And I feel it. I feel the brethren with me there, because I know they're praying for me.

And I know that when the congregation is honored by that, I'm not the guy being honored. I'm just one person. The whole congregation is honored. You know, that we have a congregation that YAHWEH has given these open doors to. And everybody should feel blessed by that, because everybody is a part of it. And everybody has their gift in that. And

like I said, there shouldn't be any envy, any jealousy, any quarrelings, because we're all part of the same team. We're all part of the same body.

1st Corinthians 12:27-31 *And you are the body of Messiah, and members in your respective places. And Elohim placed some in the Congregation: Firstly, apostles; secondly, prophets; thirdly, teachers; then works of power; then gifts of healing, helps, leaders, and speakers of different languages. Are all apostles? All prophets? All teachers? All workers of power? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in different languages? Do all interpret? But if you are searching after the greater gifts I will show you a more excellent way.*

Then it gets into the greatest gift. The gift of love. The very essence of what YAHWEH is. The foundation, the root, that His Spirit works from. So let's go to *Galatians 5*. And first he's talking about the roots, the fruits of the flesh, verse 17, or verse 16. He says:

Galatians 5:16-17 *But I say, if you walk in the Spirit, the lust of the flesh will not overtake you. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are opposed to one another; so you are not able to do as you desire.*

This is what Paul was saying in *Romans*, the 7th chapter, that there's two spirits in you. There's your human nature that you have to fight and succumb every day and keep under submission. And then there's the Spirit of YAHWEH. And they're contrary to one another. So when somebody is there, saying they're against judicial order or they'll never follow man. Who is that speaking? That's not the Spirit of YAHWEH. That's the human nature that they're not killing, that they're not suppressing, they're not controlling.

It's like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. You have to control that evil part of your human nature and not just control it, you have to die to it. You have to surrender to it and kill it. And then he gets into all these things that I'm not going to get into, all the fruits of the flesh. But verse 22... first, he says:

Galatians 5:21c-26 *anyone practicing such things will not inherit the kingdom of Elohim. But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control. Against such things there is no instruction. But the ones belonging to Messiah crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. Let us therefore live by the Spirit, and surrender to the Spirit. Let us not be of vain glory, that ridicules one another, and envies one another.*

That's why I say, when you talk bad about another brother or sister, your talking is bad about yourself, because we're all part of one body. We need to be encouraging. We need to be lifting up. And if somebody ... if you see that somebody has a problem, try to help them. Try to go to them. Try to encourage them. Try to lift them up.

So let's go back to *Romans 12*. And like I said, because we don't ... we are not mature enough in the fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, long-suffering, faith, goodness, mercy, joy, because we're not mature enough in that, we're not seeing the gifts of the Spirit the way we could. Back to verse 9 of *Romans 12*. He says:

Romans 12:9-10 *Let not your love be deceitful, hate that which is evil, hold fast to that which is good, in brotherly love to one another, loving fervently, having gone before one another in honor.*

So, here it is, we should be, instead of ... like he's saying here, being deceitful to one another, and evil is the opposite of love. He says we should be *going before one another in honor*, showing appreciation. So, here it is. We don't all have the same gifts. If we see that somebody is lacking in a certain gift, instead of putting them down for what they're lacking, why not build them up for what they have? We're part of one body.

The fact that I might not be able to speak other languages, that's the Holy Spirit. I can speak 10 languages if the Holy Spirit gave me power to, it didn't give me power to speak 10 languages. So, instead of criticizing me for that, lift me up for the gifts I have and what I'm doing. And that's what we need to do. We need to realize we're all limited. But there's only one body and it's YAHWEH who chooses where we are in that body. So, instead of criticizing somebody for what they don't have, why not show appreciation for what they do have?

Romans 12:11-13 *in diligence, not slothful, fervent in spirit, serving the Master; in hope, rejoicing; in affliction, enduring; in prayer, steadfastly continuing; imparting to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality.*

So, this is where being part of that living sacrifice, like we've read in verse 1, means that we have to surrender not only of our will to YAHWEH, but our wants. And I've said this, people come to the feast sometimes ... Many times it's their first time there and they might not even be part of the congregation. And they'll start to tell you, after you're doing this for almost 20 years, "Oh, you need to do more of this. You're doing too much touring. You're not doing enough touring. There's not doing enough time for fellowship. You're having too much fellowship." Wow.

Somebody comes to the feast the first time, they come in as a guest, you welcome them in and all they have is criticism of you. It takes me almost half a year working on that feast, putting all the things together. And you know, when I'm there, I give 100% of myself. And if there's ways we could change, we're more than happy to do that. But do you come with a spirit of appreciation or do you come with a spirit of criticism? Because it's not the way you would have had it.

And the one thing YAHWEH showed me years ago, as a leader, not everybody's like me ... not everybody's like me. And what I try to do is, the same at the school, I try to mold the programs according to who's there, not who I want to be there. And if we have all brand new people somewhere, well, then I have to come down to their level and I will, because I have to teach them at that level. You're not going to teach a fifth grader the way you would teach somebody in college.

But the people that have their own self-interest, they're not thinking that way. They're just thinking what they would want to do and what's best for them. And this is what he's saying. That's not part of the body of Messiah. Let's go to *Philippians 2. Philippians 2 in verse 1*. He says:

Philippians 2:1-4 *So then, if there is any comfort in Messiah, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any mercies and compassions, complete my joy, by being in one accord, and one love, and one soul, and one mind. Doing nothing according to strife or self-glory, but in humility, let each regard his neighbor as better than himself; let no one be mindful only of his own things, but let each one also be mindful of the things of his neighbor.*

This is part of being that living sacrifice. It's surrendering your will every day to the will of YAHWEH. And you want to know something? It amazes me sometimes, that people don't think, you know what? Maybe you're the only one that likes this kind of stuff.

We have the same thing with music. Somebody will say every song should be like this. Maybe not everybody likes those songs. That's why even in our weekly fellowship, what do we do? We let everyone pick a song out. You got a song pick it. We don't just have somebody dictating. These are all the songs we're going to sing. No.

We're all part of the same body. We'll have different likes and dislikes. But we have to think that way. We have to surrender our will to the will of YAHWEH. We have to think of what our brothers and sisters like and what will be edifying to them in YAHWEH and not always just be thinking what's best for us. That's part of self-surrender. That's part of being that living sacrifice.

And you know what? To do that, not only do you have to be mature, you really have to surrender yourself. Because the one thing you find out, the more you become converted, you find out the more evil human nature is. And each one of us have human nature. And if you don't control that human nature, it will dictate you. You'll be like a puppet to it. And be going off doing every kind of thing that you wish you weren't. So he says:

Romans 12:13-14 *according to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality. Bless those persecuting you; bless, and do not curse.*

And the note [HRB2012 #3] here says: You bless them by not giving them back evil for evil, but a believer does not give a blessing upon evil. (Rom 12:20-21)

So you're not blessing their evilness. If somebody is going out there and burning down brethren's houses, you're not going to ask for a blessing that they get more equipment to do this. No, what you're doing is, you're blessing them by not giving back evil for evil. And you're asking YAHWEH to intervene, to change their hearts if possible.

Romans 12:14-15 *Bless those persecuting you; bless, and do not curse. Rejoice with rejoicing ones, and weep with weeping ones*

We just read that in *Corinthians 12*. When one is rejoicing, we all rejoice. But when one is sorrow, we all sorrow. Why? Because we're one body. And I'll tell you something. Recently in the last few months we've had in the congregation where there's been several sicknesses and even deaths of relatives. And hearing back from some of the brethren and said, wow, you have no idea how encouraging it was for me to get responses from brethren all over the world that said, hey, we're praying for you, we're supporting you. So sometimes, sometimes just a little letter of encouragement, sometimes can go a long way.

Romans 12:15-16 *Rejoice with rejoicing ones, and weep with weeping ones; minding the same thing toward one another, mind not vain glory, but associate with those who are humble. Do not become wise within yourselves*

And like I said, pride is nothing but a lie. No human being has anything to be proud of. When we really look at our human nature and we look at our fallen nature and what each of us has done. The spiritual gifts are meant to lift up the body, not ourself. Gifts can only be manifested when one is humble.

Like I said, think about it. Think about it if somebody could go up to anybody, like Yahshua did and be able to just touch them and is healed. Think of the pride that could come to somebody, the arrogance to think that they are able to heal somebody when it's the Holy Spirit. So, you have to have a humble mind. You have to realize that the power, even if it looks like it's power that you have, it all is the power of YAHWEH and unless you're humble, YAHWEH will never give you that power to work these things.

Romans 12:16-19 *minding the same thing toward one another, mind not vain glory, but associate with those who are humble. Do not become wise within yourselves; returning evil for evil to no one; providing right things before all men. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men; not avenging yourselves, beloved, but giving place to wrath, for it has been written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says YAHWEH.*

This is coming from *Deuteronomy 32:35*. I'll go there a minute. *Deuteronomy 32:35*. It says:

Deuteronomy 32:35-36 *Vengeance and retribution belong to Me; in due time their foot will slip; for the day of their calamity is near, and the things prepared are hurrying for them. For YAHWEH will bring His people justice; and He shall have compassion on His servants, for He sees that their power is gone, and only the imprisoned and abandoned remain.*

So, we have to think about that. You don't want to take vengeance in your own hands. And that's why we forgive people even if they don't ask for forgiveness. You're not letting them off the hook, because ultimately what we're doing is we're giving over that judgment to YAHWEH. And if they don't repent and they don't change, they will pay for that on judgment day. But we're giving over all judgment to the righteous Judge. Giving Him the opportunity. So...

Romans 12:19 *not avenging yourselves, beloved, but giving place to wrath, for it has been written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says YAHWEH.*

And that's part of faith, that we trust that YAHWEH is our vindicator. YAHWEH is the one who gives us justice. Then...

Romans 12:20 *Then "if your enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirsts, give him drink; for doing this you will heap coals of fire on his head."*

If you go to *Proverbs 25:21 and 22*. He says:

Proverbs 25:21-22 *If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you shall heap coals of fire on his head, and YAHWEH shall reward you.*

So, interesting I said this in the beginning of the Bible studies that we were doing in the book of Romans, if there's any book that people go into saying that the Torah is done away with, it's the book of Romans. And yet, when you look in the book of Romans, there's more than 70 quotes of the Torah, just in this is one letter. And I mean, official quotes like this, like he's quoting the Torah, using it as law. And yet, they try to say Paul was doing away with it. *Romans 11:13 and 14*, we read this last week, he says,

Romans 11:13-14 *For I speak to you, the nations, since I am an apostle of the nations, (I glorify my ministry), if somehow I may provoke to jealousy my flesh, and may save some of them.*

So again, sometimes like it says, *if your enemy hungers, feed him, if he thirsts, give him drink. By doing this you'll heap coals of fire on his head.* Sometimes you *provoke them to jealousy*, because everybody has a conscience somewhere. Sometimes it's deep down, but sometimes by *not giving back evil for evil*, you hit somebody's conscience and you *provoke them to jealousy*. And it could bring them to repentance. He says:

Romans 12:21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome the evil with good.*

So, what a great message here. Almost like a letter in itself. Doesn't go in as extensively in *Romans 12* as *Corinthian 12* in spiritual gifts, but that's why we have the two to compare together. But really showing us the main point that Paul is trying to make is that:

We need to be living sacrifices.

We need to be surrendering our will to the will of YAHWEH.

We need to be thinking of ourselves as one body.

We need to be really, like I said, even though we have judicial order as far as authority goes, we realize that we're all equal in the eyes of YAHWEH.

We need to be encouraging one another.

We need to be lifting each other up.

We need to be working together as a body so that all these spiritual gifts that each of us have, can be bearing the most fruit to YAHWEH.

So, YAHWEH bless. Shabbat shalom.