

AVAILABLE (Part 4) - "Our Story for His Glory"

Romans 12:1-6 NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

Exodus 4:10-15 NIV

Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.

Philippians 2:12-18 NIV

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Key Points

- Leverage is what God does when we make anything we have available for anything He wants.
- A living sacrifice is what happens in our actual lived life.
- It is impossible to read the Bible and not see how everything in it tips us towards one another. We need each other to know ourselves while shouldering, enduring, and processing heavy things.
- The way of leverage isn't a promise but rather a process. We need to take responsibility for the kind of person we are becoming as we learn to steward what has been entrusted to us.
- "Working out our salvation" affects how we are with one another. We have to learn to cooperate, contribute, depend, and trust.
- Leveraging our lives is not simply about doing productive things for God, but rather making every part of ourselves available.
- One way we leverage our lives is by stewarding our time.

READ

Open your time together by reading the Scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- Read Romans 12:1-6. Paul urges believers to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. What does it mean to present ourselves as living sacrifices in our daily lives?
- Read Exodus 4:10-15. How do you relate to Moses' feelings of inadequacy, and what are some ways we can overcome our own insecurities when faced with challenges or responsibilities?
- Read Philippians 2:12-18. How does the concept of "working out your salvation with fear and trembling" impact the way we live our daily lives as Christians? What does it mean to you personally?

REFLECT

- How do you understand the concept of "leverage" in the context of making anything we have available for anything God wants? Can you share a personal experience where you felt you were leveraging your resources for God's purposes?
- Discuss the difference between viewing the way of leverage as a promise versus a process. How does this perspective impact our expectations and approach to our relationship with God?

RESPOND

- How can we practically take responsibility for the kind of person we are becoming, especially in terms of stewarding what has been entrusted to us by God?
- Share examples from your life where you've experienced the importance of making every part
 of yourself available to God. How does this go beyond simply doing productive things for God?
- Reflect on the idea that leveraging our lives is about making every part of ourselves available.
 Are there specific areas of your life that you struggle to surrender to God, and how can the group provide support?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests collectively or by breaking into prayer partners.