



# GOD'S FELLOWSHIP – LIVING SACRIFICE (16)

## START HERE:

The first verse of Romans 12 includes an important clue for readers. Depending on the version you read, the clue is either “therefore” or “so.” They both mean the same thing: *“Pay attention to what you just read because what comes next depends on what came before it.”*

In the section before Romans 12, Paul retells the long history of Israel, God’s chosen nation and people. (The Old Testament tells the whole story.) He summarizes just a few of the many times that God showed mercy to people who disobeyed him, ignored him, rejected him, and denied him.

Then Paul reminds his readers that God’s love and mercy aren’t just for Israel. They are for everyone.

Paul also admits that it can be hard to understand why things happen the way they do. Why doesn’t God just fix everything? Why doesn’t he just make everyone believe him and love him? Why doesn’t he just put everything back to the way he made it, before sin destroyed things? Why doesn’t he just stop bad things and change bad people?

Here is Paul’s answer:

God’s wisdom, knowledge, decisions, and plans are profound.  
We can’t understand them. We are foolish to think otherwise.  
Which makes sense because **he is God and we are not.**  
Everything comes from him. Everything exists through him.

**Therefore...**

**READ THIS:** Romans 12

## THINK ABOUT:

What patterns/behaviors/customs of this world are you prone to copy? (or: in what ways do you sometimes conform to the world?)

Why do you think a renewed or transformed mind is necessary for becoming a new person?

List the ways Paul says we should display a life of love and faith (verses 9-21). Where do you need to grow?

What do you learn about each of these things from this passage:

Truth about God:

Truth about Jesus Christ:

Truth about the Spirit:

Truth about God’s children:

AM: Today, find times and ways to let the Spirit control your thoughts.

PM: Today, how did God work in your mind and thoughts?

*Dear Lord, I want to have a renewed mind. I want the Spirit to control my thoughts and transform me into a new person - in my thoughts, my attitudes, and my actions. Amen.*

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## EXTRA THINGS

*The Bible is filled with images and metaphors that help explain who God is, who we are, and how we should live.*

*Have you ever thought about how amazing it is that a book written so many thousands of years ago - by people who lived in an ancient world of different cultures with ideas and customs so different from ours today - would be filled with images and metaphors that still make sense to us today?*

*Trees, water, light, salt, seeds, farming, fishing, athletes, soldiers, knitting, pottery, weaving, families, the human body, and more - we can understand all of these things today.*

*Paul used the human body as a metaphor for the community of Jesus followers in a church because it was easy to understand back then - and it still is today.*

## EXTRA VERSES

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

## EXTRA STUFF

Listen to “Surrender” by Jimi Cravity [HERE](#).

Listen to “We Are the Body” [HERE](#).