

# Week Two: Discussion Questions

## UPSIDE DOWN SACRIFICE: YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

### ROMANS 12:1-2



1. What impacted you from last week's message.
2. This study is called, "Upside Down Kingdom." How is vs. 16, specifically what follows "many trespasses," upside down from what the world teaches?
3. Romans 12:1 says, "I appeal to you, therefore...to be a living sacrifice..." From this passage that we just studied in Romans 5, what would be the reason to be a living sacrifice to the Lord?
4. How and why would God's love be helpful when facing the struggles listed in vs. 35-36, 38-39?
5. What does it look like to conquer as a believer, keeping in mind that the truths in vs. 29 don't necessarily change our circumstances?
6. Vs. 35 says, "Who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid?" What kinds of expectations do we sometimes place on God, thinking that He "owes" us something?
7. Please explain how a person struggling with pride would respond to this passage versus a person who is humble.
8. Please compare this passage in Romans with 1 John 2:15-17. How is conformity (assimilation) to this world an obstacle to being a living sacrifice for God?
9. Notice the passage doesn't say, "Transform yourself." It says, "BE transformed." (It also doesn't say, "Don't conform yourself...but don't BE conformed.") What's the difference between "doing" and "being," and how does this transformation take place?
10. Why is the renewal of our minds necessary for testing and discerning the will of God? By implication, what will we be tempted to think of the will of God when we're not having our minds renewed?
11. The way I've tried to discern Your will in the past was...but now I see I need to...



## ROMANS 12:3-8



# Week Two: Homework

UPSIDE-DOWN GIFTINGS – BY GOD’S GRACE - FOR GOD’S GLORY

ROMANS 12:3-8



## DAY ONE

**PRAY:** Before you begin your study this week, ask the Lord to help you gain a fresh understanding of the gifts He has given you and how He may be leading you to use them to encourage other believers.

**MEMORIZE:** This week we will memorize Romans 12:1b “. . . holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” Write the memory verse on the lines below or on a notecard to use for reference and meditation throughout this week.

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**STUDY:** Following the instructions from Romans 12:1-2, in verses three through eight Paul gives guidance regarding the renewed mind and transformed life. Specifically, he focuses on how believers in Christ should use the gifts they have received from the Holy Spirit to serve one another. Recognizing our natural tendency to prideful thinking, he begins by sharing how we should think of ourselves.

Please read Romans 12:3-8.

1. On the lines below record repeated words or phrases, power words, and key ideas that you notice in this passage.

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2. From these verses, what do you learn about God?

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3. From the verses, what do you learn about your responsibilities as a believer in Christ?

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4. \*Record any questions that you have about these verses.

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5. Based upon what you have read today, what is one thing that you feel led to start, stop, or change in your life?

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*As you close in prayer today ask the Lord to help you commit yourself to careful consideration of the Scripture that you are studying this week and how it may be applied to your life.*

## **DAY TWO**

**PRAY:** Open your study time in prayer, asking God to show you what it means to think of yourself with “sober judgement.”

**MEMORIZE:** Read or say Romans 12:1b out loud several times. Try to fill in the blanks below without looking. “... \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God, which is your \_\_\_\_\_.”

**STUDY:** In Romans 12:3 we read two contrasting commands where Paul says something negative and then something positive. This is a pattern of instruction that he often uses to encourage believers to not only remove sinful words, actions, etc, but to replace them with right thinking and actions.

Please read Romans 12:3-8

1. Why do you think Paul started this section with the words, “by the grace given to me”? Do you see any significance in his repeating this phrase in verse six?

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2. \*In verse two we are challenged to be transformed by the renewal of our minds. What are the two contrasting instructions given in verse three that contribute to our renewed thinking?

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3. \*In what ways is this type of thinking (from verse three) different from the current idea of “self-esteem”?

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4. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7. How can this verse help you understand Romans 12:3?

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5. How does thinking of yourself with sound judgement help you combat pride?

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*As you close in prayer, ask God to show you any areas where you may be following a worldly pattern of seeking self-esteem and to renew your mind so that you think of yourself with sound Biblical judgement.*

### **DAY THREE**

**PRAY:** Before you begin your study today, ask the Lord to help you better understand what it means to be a member of His body, the church.

**MEMORIZE:** Read Romans 12:1b or say it from memory out loud. Emphasize the words that are most impactful to you.

**STUDY:** In Romans 12:4-5 Paul shares how each believer individually functions as part of the church. God has created the body of Christ and it is unique among all human organizations. Cultivating renewed minds and good judgement in our thinking is vitally important as we each consider how we are called to use our God-given gifts as part of the church.

Please read Romans 12:3-5.

1. In what ways do the instructions in Romans 12:4-5 relate to what we are told in verse three?

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2. \*Read I Corinthians 12:12-26.

a. How do these verses challenge your thinking of what “church” is?

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b. According to these verses, why is there no room for personal pride in the body of Christ?

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c. From these verses why has God created the church as a body with individual parts that all work together?

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3. \*How could the verses you have read today help renew your thinking when you are tempted by feelings of jealousy or envy in regards to the gifting someone else may have been given that seems more desirable to you?

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4. The pattern of this world is to elevate ideas such as individuality, personal success and winning. Based upon what you have studied today, how does the idea that you are one part of the whole body challenge your thinking about what it means to be successful?

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*Close your study by sharing with the Lord what you have learned today. Thank Him for revealing these things to you.*

## **DAY FOUR**

**PRAY:** Thank the Lord today for giving you spiritual gifts. Ask Him to help you better understand what it means to use your gifts as a member of His body.

**MEMORIZE:** Try to recall Romans 12:1 from memory without looking. Write the entire verse by filling in the blanks below.

I \_\_\_\_\_ to you therefore, brothers, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to present your \_\_\_\_\_ as a living \_\_\_\_\_, holy and \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, which is your \_\_\_\_\_.

**STUDY:** In Romans 12:6-8 Paul encourages believers to use the variety of “grace gifts” that have been given to each one by the Holy Spirit. The giftings listed in these verses are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all spiritual gifts, but rather to highlight the beautifully diverse, yet complementary way believers contribute to growth in the body as each one uses their God-given giftings.

Please read Romans 12:6-8.

1. From Romans 12:6a, write down what you learn about spiritual gifts.

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2. Read I Peter 4:10-11.

a. From these verses what is the purpose of grace gifts in the lives of believers?

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b. What are the outcomes of believers using their gifts?

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c. Peter lists 2 types of gifts. What are they and how specifically should each be used?

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3. \*Based upon the two passages you read today, what conclusions can you draw about spiritual gifts?

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4. \*In what ways have you been called to speak to and/or serve others in the body of Christ? Spend a few minutes thinking “outside the box” about how you could use the spiritual giftings God has given you. Record any thoughts you have below.

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*Close your time of study by sharing with the Lord what you have learned today. Prayerfully commit to using your grace gifts in service to others for the glory of God in Christ.*

## **DAY FIVE**

**PRAY:** Ask God to open your heart to the ways that He might be calling you to use the spiritual gifts He has given you as a means to serve other believers.

**MEMORIZE:** Review Romans 12:1 and write it below without peeking if possible!

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**STUDY:** In Romans 12:3-8 we have learned that each believer has been given a measure of faith as well as differing gifts of grace from the Holy Spirit. And yet we are called to use this diversity toward the goal of building up the one body of Christ. Pastor John Piper encourages us to view our spiritual gifts “not as differences among contestants in a game where we try to beat each other, but differences among parts of a body where we try to serve each other.”

Please read Romans 12:6-8

1. These verses list seven different grace gifts. Using the chart below, list each gift mentioned along with a brief definition. In the third column record any additional instructions given for the use of that particular gift. If you need help with the definition you could use an online Bible dictionary or study Bible.

GIFT	DEFINITION	INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

2. Why do you think Paul gives specific instructions for how the individual gifts are to be used?

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3. \*Think of some practical ways each of these could be used to build up the body of Christ and encourage other believers. This may be as part of the physical organization of the local church or in other interactions with fellow Christians.

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4. \*How does what you have learned about spiritual giftings relate to what you learned in Romans 12:1-2?

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5. Peek back through your lessons from this week. On the lines below, summarize what God has taught you.

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*As you complete your study this week praise God for how He has uniquely gifted you by His grace. Ask Him to continue to show you how you can better serve Him and others by using these gifts.*