

Mo Ranch 2021 – Giving Your Life to God

Giving Your Life to God, Talk 1: Enter into a Relationship with God

Receiving Jesus' Gift of the Forgiveness of Sin

- Ephesians 2:8-9. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
- Matthew 11:28-29. Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Application:

Give your life to God by coming to Jesus.

- Have you confessed to God that you have sinned against Him and received His forgiveness and rest?

Giving Your Life to God, Talk 2: Learn to Put God First

God First: The “One Thing” – Intimacy with God

- Psalm 27:4. One thing I have asked from the Lord; that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.
- Luke 10:41-42. But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Learn to Put God First

1. Over Your Time

- Margin = Capacity – Load
- 2 Timothy 2:4. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

2. Over Sin

- Matthew 7:24,26. Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man....But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man....

3. Before All Relationships

- Luke 14:26. If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.
- Mark 5:18-19. As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. And He did not let him, but He said to him, “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.”

Promises to Those Who Obey

- John 14:21. Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and will show Myself to him.
- John 14:23. Jesus replied, “If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

Putting God First: Leads to Abundance and Joy

- Ecclesiastes 8:15. So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun.
- 1 Timothy 6:17. ...God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.
- John 10:10. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Application:

Give your life to God by learning to put Him first in your life.

- Have you made Jesus your “one thing” (ie, to make your pursuit of relationship and intimacy with Him your #1 priority)?
- As you consider your time, sin and relationships, what are the 1 or 2 most important changes God is prompting you to make? Have you asked the Lord to help you with that?
- Are you enjoying your life?

Giving Your Life to God, Talk 3: Put on the New Self, the Lord Jesus

Ephesians 1-3, Our New Life in Christ:

- 1:3. We have every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.
- 1:4. God knew us and chose us before the world was created to be holy and blameless.
- 1:6. We have been redeemed (purchased) by His blood and our sins forgiven.
- 1:13. We have been sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit. This is a seal that cannot be broken.
- 2:1. All this happened when we were dead in our sins.
- 2:5. God made us alive together with Christ -- by grace we have been saved.
- 2:8. This grace is a gift from God – there is nothing we can do to deserve it.
- 2:10. We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ to do good works which God prepared in advance.
- 2:14. Jesus Himself is now our peace.
- 2:19. We are no longer strangers and aliens, but, fellow citizens and a part of God’s family.
- 3:12. We now have boldness in Christ and confident access to God.

What Do We Do with this “New Self”?

- Ephesians 4:1. Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.
- Ephesians 4:22-24. ...in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
- Romans 6:5. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly, we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection., knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

- Romans 13:14. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.
- Ephesians 5:1. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
- Mark 12:28. What is the greatest commandment?" Jesus answered, "...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no greater commandment than these."

Evangelism & Discipleship

- Luke 19:10. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.
- Matthew 28:18-20. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Application:

Give your life to God by putting on the Lord Jesus and making no provision for the flesh -- let Him live His life of love through you.

- Are you building friendships with non-believing friends and showing them the love of Jesus?
- Are you available to share your faith with others?
- Are you available to engage with someone in a discipling relationship?

Giving Your Life to God, Talk 4: Lose Your Life

Lose Your Life

- Matthew 16:24-25. Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but, whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

The Mercy of God

- Romans 12:1. Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 1-11, The Mercy of God:

- 1:16. He has given us the Gospel -- the power of God for salvation.
- 1:20. God has made Himself clearly known through His creation.
- 2:4. He gives riches of kindness, tolerance and patience that leads to repentance.
- 2:14-15. He gives us a conscience so we know right and wrong.
- 3:20. He gave us the Law so we could have knowledge of sin.
- 3:21. God manifested His righteousness in Christ.
- 3:24. He justified us as a free gift of His grace.
- 3:25. Jesus died publicly to appease God's wrath and judgment against us.
- 4:5. God has credited His righteousness to us.
- 5:1. We have peace with God through Jesus.
- 5:8. While we were sinners, Jesus died on the cross for us.
- 5:10. He died for us while we were helpless, and even His enemies.
- 6:6-8. He freed us from sin and has promised us eternal life.
- 7:6. We do not have to live under the Mosaic Law.
- 7:6. We are a new creation and now live by the Spirit.
- 8:1. He removed all condemnation.
- 8:4. He fulfilled the requirement of the Law in us.
- 8:6. He gave us a mind set on life and peace instead of death.
- 8:8-9. We can live a life pleasing to God.
- 8:9-11. We now belong to Him, and, His Holy Spirit lives in us.
- 8:11. He has promised to one day give us a new body.
- 8:14-16. He adopted us into His family -- He has made us His sons and daughters.
- 8:16-17. We are now His children and His heirs (and fellow heirs with Christ).
- 8:17. We will be glorified with Christ.
- 8:18. He helps us endure the sufferings of this life.
- 8:26. He gave us His Spirit to help in our weaknesses.

- 8:26. He constantly intercedes for us.
- 8:28. He causes all things to work together for our good.
- 8:29. He is conforming us into the image of Jesus.
- 8:37. We are overwhelmingly conquerors.
- 8:38-39. Nothing can separate us from His love.

- 9:18. He chose us.
- 9:33. We will never be disappointed by Him.

- 10:20-21. He found us even though we were rebellious and did not seek Him.

- 11:29. He has given us gifts and a calling that are irrevocable.

Offer Your Bodies as a Living Sacrifice

- Romans 12:1. Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship.

"Paristemi" – To Present One Time

- Luke 2:22. They brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him (Paristemi) to the Lord.

Here am I. Send me!

- Isaiah 6:1,5,8. ...I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple....“Woe to me! I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty....“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Be Transformed and Discover God's Will

- Romans 12:2. Do not conform any longer 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.

Application:

Give your life to God by losing your life – in view of His mercy, present yourself as living sacrifice.

- Picture yourself entering the throne room of God (Hebrews 4:16, “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence....”).
 - Envision God the Father seated on the throne with Jesus seated to His right.
 - Meditate on the mercy of God and allow yourself to be overwhelmed.
 - Imagine there is an altar before the throne. Step outside of yourself, lift yourself up and place yourself on the altar -- present yourself as a living sacrifice.