

MORE LIKE YOU

THOUGHTS FROM LT-COLONEL BRENDA CRITCH

Many of us are truly inspired by the life of the apostle Paul, a writer of several New Testament books. Paul was a man who lived life with passion, singular focus, purpose, and compassion; a man sold out to Jesus Christ! He is an example of what God can do in a life that is fully surrendered to Him. Paul, first introduced to us as Saul, was a persecutor of the “followers of the Way” (or otherwise known as followers of Jesus) and sought to wipe out this sect that was rapidly growing in Jerusalem and the surrounding area. On the road to Damascus, with plans to arrest the believers of that city, he had a personal encounter with the risen Lord, with Jesus! His life was forever changed!

After his conversion on the Damascus Road, I believe Paul continued to experience transformation in his life because of both desire and surrender. Throughout his epistles, his passionate desire to know and become like Jesus is evident, yet he is also honest about the struggle of his soul; the desires of his sinful nature conflicting with his desire to know, love, and serve God. Paul learned that the secret to being freed from this struggle was surrender. Only Jesus could rescue him. Only Jesus could purify his heart so that he truly desired God with his whole being, above all else. As followers of Jesus, we too can concur with Paul that the struggle is real! Yet as we have those honest conversations with Jesus, consenting to His presence and action in our lives in unhurried moments with Him, He does the transforming work and we become more like Him.

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. (Romans 12:1-2 NIV)

REFLECTION

Take some moments in God’s presence to meditate on Romans 12:1-2.

- Could “offering your body” to God also include setting aside time each day to simply be with Him?
- Consider what time of day works best for you.
- Consider where your meeting place could be.
- Consider how much time you want to commit for a daily personal encounter with Jesus.
- Consider who could support you on this transforming journey of becoming more like Him.