

# CrossWalk **notes**

## The Ultimate Comeback From Self to Service

May 3, 2020 / Jeff Gunn

Some believe we can. Many believe we can't. What do you believe about your (or anyone's) ability to \_\_\_\_\_?

<sup>1</sup> 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**. <sup>2</sup> 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**

Every Christ-follower can experience life-change by gratefully keeping God's \_\_\_\_\_ in view, and...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ God sacrificially.

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and **each member belongs to all the others**. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> **if it is serving, then serve**; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. **Romans 12:3-8, NIV**

2. \_\_\_\_\_ others gracefully.

<sup>9</sup> **Love must be sincere**. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> **Be devoted to one another in love**. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **Romans 12:9-12, NIV**

3. \_\_\_\_\_ others sincerely.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of **the Spirit who gives life has set you free** from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, **God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering**. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **Romans 8:1-4, NIV**

The world is correct: I cannot change \_\_\_\_\_.

But God's \_\_\_\_\_ will change me by setting me free from myself to \_\_\_\_\_ God and people.

### MEMORY VERSE

<sup>1</sup> 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**. **Romans 12:1, NIV**

**My next step:** I will keep God's mercy always in view. In gratitude, I ask for God's help to move from self to service.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

# Impact Group Questions

## Ultimate Comeback – From Self to Serve

**Getting Started:** When is a time you had a lot of fun serving? What made it so much fun?

### Remembering Sunday

Each week we will begin with the same question, “**What about the message from Sunday had the most meaning or made the biggest impact on you?**” Take time to answer this question as you listen to each message. Bring your sermon notes to class each week to help you remember.

### From Self to Serve:

#### Read: Romans 12:1-2

What is it about keeping your eyes on the *mercy* of God that will change your thought process from that of conformation (living like the world does in selfishness) to transformation (a God-centered life of worship)?

What do you think?

Al has an anger problem and he knows it. He has struggled with anger his whole life and it has cost him at work, home and with friendships. After he loses his cool, Al tends to beat himself up and feel bad about what he has done, but he just can't seem to change. Can Al change? If so, how? Does this section offer any clues?

#### Read: Romans 12:3-8

Paul starts this section saying, “For by the grace given me I say . . . Do not think of yourselves more highly than you ought”. What role does grace play in keeping one humble?

Look at verses 6-8. Look at the different gifts that are listed. If you had to pick one that you think you are the most gifted with, which would it be?

This quote is a quote from the Serenity Prayer, “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.” Do you think this is a helpful tool in helping people find change in the grace of God?

### Doing Life Together:

This is the last official class of the semester. Consider what your plan will be for meeting in the summer. Consider fun and fellowship events as well as opportunities to serve and reach out. Have your leader communicate your plans with Pastor Dan.

### My Next Step:

Pick one area of your life that you feel you need to change. Identify it specifically. Make a plan that will help you make changes. Consider making it part of your daily prayer life or even a Bible reading plan. Include a partner who will help you be accountable. Consider Resilient ministry or even counseling help if you continue to struggle with it.

### Prayer:

In the prayer section we encourage you to take about 10 minutes to pray as a group. Include the issues of prayer and praise from above. Set aside about 10 minutes so it doesn't feel rushed.

### Friendship:

Spend the final 10 to 15 minutes of group catching up with other group members. Take time to get to know those you don't know quite as well. Make sure to include everyone in the group.

### Reminders:

You will need to stay in touch through many online avenues. Make sure you receive the weekly email (register at [www.cwlk.church](http://www.cwlk.church) all the way at the bottom of the page), keep coming to a virtual group, consider Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as ways to stay in touch.