

“Renewal in the Spirit”

Mount of Olives | December 28, 2025 | Romans 12:2

Guest Speaker, Jana Lowrey, member of Mount of Olives Church

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Message Notes

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Isaiah 11:2

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

John 14:16

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Study Questions

Read Romans 12:1-8

ICEBREAKER – getting started

1. Describe what the word, “worship” means to you.
2. What do think people in our culture “worship” most?
3. As related to the “worship of God”, describe an experience of “worship” that has been most meaningful to you. What made it so meaningful?

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Romans 12:-8**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What did it mean to them?

1. Read Romans 6:13-16, 1st Peter 1:14, and John 2:15-17. How do these verses compare to Romans 12:1-2? In the Old Testament worship was expressed through animal sacrifice, how does this relate to what Paul writes in Romans 12:1-2?
2. Paul tells us not to be conformed to the patterns of this world. How would you describe the patterns of today's world? What are the ways in which people conform to these patterns? How are you tempted to conform to this world? How do you know whether or not you are conforming to this world?
3. Paul goes on to instruct us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. How is the mind renewed? Why does the mind need to be renewed in order to worship God and know His will? (See Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Ephesians 4:22-24, and Colossians 3:8-10.)
4. In Romans 12:3, Paul tells the church members not to think too highly of themselves, but to think with sober judgment. How would you describe a healthy identity in Christ? How can you acknowledge the gifts God has given you, without having those gifts become a source of pride?
5. Why do you think the body is a great metaphor for the church? In your experience, do you see the church functioning in this way? How can you contribute to this body?
6. As a body we are "members one of another" and "each member belongs to all others" (NIV). What are the implications of this teaching? If we "belong to each other" how should we view using our gifts in the service of the body?

APPLICATION – What does this mean to you today?

1. How do you present yourself as a living sacrifice?
2. What are some of the spiritual disciplines you have found helpful for the renewing of your mind?