

March 6 & 9, 2025



When in Romans Part 2, Week 4 “Preparing for the ‘After’ Pics”

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

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.

1. After pics are for the properly motivated.
2. After pics are for the surrendered.

Characteristics of surrender:

1. Voluntary
2. Complete
3. Ongoing

- Surrender is the channel through which God’s best and biggest blessings flow.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

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.

3. After pics are for the transformed.

- Gospel transformation is about recognition and renewal.

1 John 2:16 (NIV)

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

- Conforming is merely cooperating with the culture, while transformation is co-laboring with Christ.
- Transformation occurs when we start daily winning the mind game.

Romans 12:3 (NIV)

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.

4. After pics are for the truly humble.

- What you think of when you think of Jesus and yourself are your most important thoughts.
- When we live in light of our true identity, we are free.

Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

5. After pics take belonging.

Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)

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;⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;⁸ 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.

~~6. After pics take deployment.~~

- Spiritual deployment leads to spiritual development.
- Deployment is giving an expression to our internal impression.