

# Complete Surrender in the Kingdom

Ruth read this at our gathering on Sunday:

*“The tabernacle of Moses in the Old Testament was a picture of God’s house. The first thing that God’s people came to when they entered the tabernacle was the altar of burnt offering. The altar was the place of sacrifice and death.*

*Imagine a bull standing out with the herd in an open meadow. A priest separates the bull from the herd and brings him close to the tabernacle. According to Scripture, the bull has been “consecrated”, “sanctified”, “set apart”, “separated”, “made holy”.*

*The bull is then slain on the altar. Once the bull is slain, the priest takes his hands off it, signifying that the bull now belongs to the Lord.*

*This is the image that Paul is seeking to get across in Romans 12:1-2. To be laid upon the altar means that we have lost control over the ownership of our lives. We are now wholly in the hands of and at the mercy of Another.*

*Paul is saying to the Christians in Rome, “Let God have your bodies. Let Him do whatever He wills with them. Give yourself unreservedly to the Lord. Look at the altar and climb on it, declaring, ‘Lord, whatever You want. I’m yours. I leave the reins in Your hands.’”*

*Know this: if you take this step and put yourself on the altar, the Lord will take you to your utter end, and even beyond it.*

*But the Lord leaves the choice with you. You can live your own life and keep the reins in your hands. But entering the fullness of the kingdom won’t be an option for you. You will only get so far.*

*The kingdom of God needs those who have placed themselves utterly in the hands of God. A people who have taken the long trek of the total dealing of God in their lives, having offered their bodies completely to Him.”<sup>1</sup>*

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(For Kingdom Living Community, Canberra)  
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