

Sacrifice: The willingness to joyfully surrender that which you rightfully possess in exchange for greater reward.

Why do you think every pagan religion involves sacrifice?

Have you ever heard a strong sermon on sacrifice before this week? How did it make you feel? Have you ever felt pressured to sacrifice something that you really didn't want to sacrifice?

What sacrifices have you made in the last three months for Christ?

Do you ever feel guilty that you have not sacrificed enough? Guess what? You never will. That's why we need Jesus.

Is it difficult for you to read the bloody sacrifices in the Old Testament? It should be. Why?

Read Hebrews 9:11-14, the key that locks the mystery of the Old Testament sacrifices. How is Jesus the greater and more perfect High Priest? Holy Place? Blood? Sacrificial Lamb?

What is the difference between sacrificing in order to be accepted by God and sacrificing because we have already been accepted by God in Christ?

Heb. 13:9 says "it is good for your heart to be strengthened by grace." Why is it impossible for the law to motivate sacrifice? Describe how God has strengthened your heart by grace to make sacrifices for God.

What is the greatest sacrifice you have made for Christ?

Read Psalm 51:16-17. What is the sacrifice that God really wants from us? Describe the "broken and contrite heart" that God will not despise. How do you offer God a heart of sacrifice? Does this describe the condition of your heart?

Read Heb. 12:2. What motivated Jesus to sacrifice his life on the cross? That which is not sacrificed joyfully from the heart is neither wanted or received by God. Are your sacrifices marked by joy or burden?

1) The sacrifice of suffering. (12-14)

Discuss this statement: *Sacrifice is costly, even painful, but it is not as costly or painful as not living a life of sacrifice. I will make temporary sacrifices now or I will make eternal sacrifices later.*

Discuss this statement: *Sacrifice is not just right. It's smart.*

Discuss this statement: I will make temporary sacrifices now or I will make eternal sacrifices later.

What is the reward of sacrifice?

What would it mean for you to answer the invitation to "go to Him outside the camp"? What is your camp of safety and comfort? Where might Christ be inviting you to go with him?

2) The sacrifice of praise (15)

a) I must drain the life from every competitor for my worship.

What idols compete for your praise? (Money, Career, Education, Relationship, Sports, Entertainment, Recreation?)

b) I must drain the life from bitterness.

Is there any situation or person in your life that you can't praise God for?

How will you sacrifice your right to complain?

How will you sacrifice your right to get angry?

How will you sacrifice your right to feel sorry for yourself?

c) I must drain the life from self-glory.

Does God get the glory when you give the sacrifice?

When you make sacrifices for God do you find yourself...

...expecting someone to acknowledge or thank you for your sacrifice?

...patting yourself on the back?

...drawing attention to yourself?

3) The sacrifice of sharing (16)

Who has been the recipient of your good and shared sacrifice?

Describe how you are sharing your time, talent, and treasure in the name of Christ.

Additional Scripture

- Psalm 107:22
- Psalm 116:17
- Mark 8:34-37
- Acts 20:28
- Romans 12:1,13
- Philippians 4:18
- 1Peter 4:14