

## Introduction: Pondering the Power of “Sacrifice”

“Sacrifice” – The act of giving up, destroying, or permitting injury to, or foregoing something valued for the sake of something having a more pressing claim.

Webster's Dictionary

**Great sacrifices**, even in movies, art, music, or athletics produce a profound and almost inexplicable emotional and spiritual response.

- We admire those who make **great sacrifices**.
- We enshrine those who make **great sacrifices**.
- We honor those who make **great sacrifices**.
- We reward those who make **great sacrifices**.
- We seek to emulate those who make **great sacrifices**.

**Why?** – What is this mystical union and soul connection we subconsciously make when we witness a **great sacrifice** for a noble cause, or a personal relationship?

**Answer** – Sacrifice is the clearest and greatest evidence of the extent of one's love and devotion toward a person, a cause, or a thing. (John 15:13)

- ❖ In short, sacrifice is “the arrow” that points toward who or what we worship.  
(Ascribe worth, importance, value to)



**I. Understanding Biblical sacrifice and worship:**

**A. Lessons from Leviticus:**

Chapters 1-10

- 5 Offerings prescribed for worship in the Old Testament.
  - 2 Compulsory Offerings = sin, guilt
  - 3 Voluntary Offerings = burnt, grain, peace

Summary: Access to God demands a sacrifice; fellowship with God grows through sacrifice.

**B. Lessons from the life of Abraham:**

Genesis 22

- The Requirement
- The Response
- The Result

Summary: God periodically tests the singularity of our devotion through sacrifices.

**C. Lessons from the teachings of Jesus:**

Luke 14:25-35

- The Call
- The Cost
- The Cause

Summary: Jesus demands absolute supremacy in our hearts as a condition for being His follower.

**D. Lessons from the Apostle Paul:**

Romans 12:1

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*

Summary: The sacrifice God requires is “my life” 24/7 surrendered to Him to do His will.

## II. What motivates great Christians to make great sacrifices?

### A. They grasp God's unconditional \_\_\_\_\_.

A deep sense of brokenness...

Psalm 51:16-17

over their own sin, indebtedness to God's grace...

1 Timothy 1:15-16

and gratitude for God's mercy and forgiveness.

Luke 7:47

*"I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."*

Jesus ~ Luke 7:47 (NIV)

### B. They embrace God's relational \_\_\_\_\_.

God measures our love/devotion not by the size of our gifts, but by the size of our sacrifice. (Luke 21:2)

*"...This poor widow has put in more than all the others."*

Jesus ~ Luke 21:3 (NIV)

### C. They trust God's eternal \_\_\_\_\_.

An absolute conviction that the rewards for their sacrifice far out-weigh the cost. (Mark 10:28-31)

*"...no one who has left home, or brothers, or sisters, or mother, or father, or children, or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age...and in the age to come eternal life."*

Jesus ~ Mark 10:29-30 (NIV)

D. They recognize God's sovereign \_\_\_\_\_.

An acute awareness that **great sacrifice** is not praiseworthy, but a privilege, since all we have belongs to Him. (1 Chronicles 29:14-18)

*But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand.*

David ~ 1 Chronicles 29:14 (NIV)

III. **Next steps to becoming great in God's eyes:**

- Have you surrendered your whole life to Christ as a living and holy sacrifice?
- Are you growing in loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength?
  - Evidences might include the following:
    - Your heart – revealed by your financial sacrifice.
    - Your mind – renewing your mind with God's Word.
    - Your soul – deep talks with God and personal worship.
    - Your strength – serving in ministry to others.

**Conclusion – Sacrifice is merely “love with clothes on.”**

Where there is great love there will always be **great sacrifices**.