



SACRIFICE



Key Scripture: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal” Matt 6:19–21

Sacrifice is about self-denial, for something greater than the immediate need. For us in the kingdom of God, sacrifice is not merely an exchange; rather it is exchanging one's desire or comfort for the sake of the need of the kingdom of God where we belong.

Sacrifice is a kingdom principle

Sacrifice is one of God's principle that he has demonstrated to us by giving up his only son Jesus Christ as an eternal sacrifice to redeem and reconcile the whole human race back to fellowship with him (John 3 v16). Likewise, we believers ought to live a life of sacrifice to God and his kingdom agenda. (Romans 12 v1) True sacrifice is an exchange and it must come from the heart for a greater purpose.

In IWMI, we live a life of sacrifice by giving up our immediate comfort and needs for a greater cause and is eternal. So whatever we are doing now, it is not just going to sustain you here on earth, it has eternal purpose & reward. This why the bible remind us always not to lay up for ourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal but we must lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth, rust destroys and no thieves to break in & steal'. Matt 6 v19 – 20

Our Soul as a Living Sacrifice.

The first sacrifice that every believer should give to the lord is their soul. It is the spirit of man that becomes born again when one comes to Christ. However, for one to truly belong to the kingdom of God, the soul must be offered to God as a sacrifice along with the body. You are not born again in your physical body but in your soul and when you die, the soul is the testimony of all you have done. (Romans 12 v1 12)

In Matt 22; 36-37 Nicodemus asked Jesus, that what is the greatest commandment in the law and Jesus answered' **love the lord your God with all your heart and with all**



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your soul' Why is this so? Because the soul of a man is the seat of consciousness where decisions are made and we must remember for a sacrifice to be true one, it must come from the heart. Therefore, the first sacrifice any believer must give to God is his soul (heart/mind/will) therein is the true sacrifice and all other sacrifices from a heart that is already sacrificed to God & his will is desirable to God. That is why the devil is very much interested in the soul of a man and not merely his physical body.

Again, the book of Psalm 103v1, the bible said '**bless the lord oh my soul**'. The bible did not say bless the lord oh my body, this is because God is interested in the soul. It is our soul that praises God and if that soul belongs to the devil, it cannot truly praise God. Do not be deceived, people shouting the name of Jesus doesn't mean they have given their soul to God.

Matthew 6; v19-21

God is interested in his children and wants them to pay attention to his words for whoever that is in charge of your soul controls your life and determines your eternity. The bible shows us in the book of Proverbs 11; 30 says '**whoever wins a soul is wise**' because God is interested in the soul of man. Its displeasing that in this present world, people are winning men and no longer souls for Christ. Wining a soul involves bringing the soul of that person into a place of complete alignment with God and living for his purpose only.

God has a need too

We are used to our needs but then God also has a need. He needs men that will fulfil his own desires. And that is what we do daily in IWMI, partnering with God through prayer to meet his need(s). So God will rather invest in someone that will meet his need than to invest in someone that is just after his own personal needs. God created man for his own pleasure, and not God for man's pleasure! Revelations 4 v11

Our Resources as a Sacrifice

Why God is demanding for our resources? The bible in Matthew 6 v21-23' **for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**'. Treasure could be money, valuable things or object or anything you hold dearly. So when we sacrifice our treasure to God, our hearts will be focused on the lord and the kingdom. When we give our treasured resources to God, it portrays how we value God in our heart. So, anything you give to the lord that is not valuable is not worthy of being given to him.



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Examples of men in the bible such as Abraham and Solomon that gave their treasured resources to God; Abraham sacrificing his only legitimate son Isaac and Solomon sacrificing his inheritance to God drew Gods attention. The death of Jesus was a treasured gift God gave to redeem mankind. So we also cannot truly belong to God without offering our valuable resources as sacrifice to God. As we give our valuable resources to God and his agenda, we keep our heart in alignment with God.

Conclusion

In conclusion, as believers we live a life of sacrifice not only do we surrender our soul as a living sacrifice to God, we surrender our valuable resources as well to the cause of the kingdom of God. Every day, we demonstrate this in IWMI by giving our soul, time, money, and everything that is valuable in our lives to fulfil the needs of the Father. This is why we give ourselves to fasting in IWMI, denying ourselves of food and the comfort as a valuable sacrifice of our bodies to do the will of God. As intercessors, we understand that we are created to do the will of God on earth, this is how we live a life of sacrifice ! Glory to God.