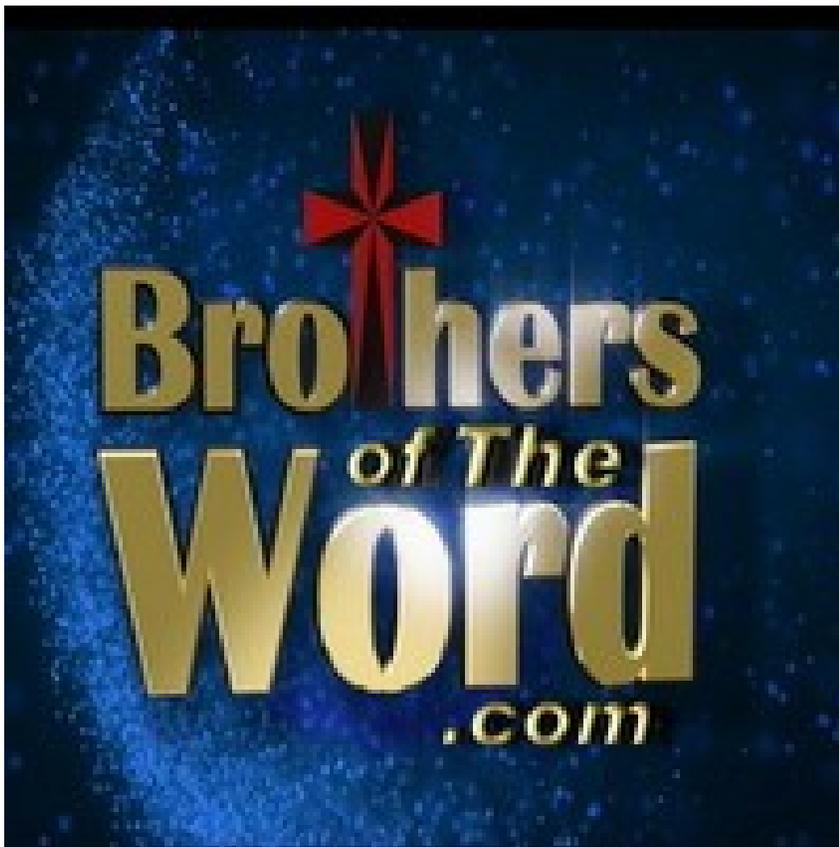


# A Living Sacrifice

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Thank you for tuning in to Brothers of the World because brother you need the word. And the in writs I beseech you therefore brother. By the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice holy, acceptable to God which is your reasonable service. And I speak to you today from the subject of a living sacrifice.

A living sacrifice, the bible says that obedience is better than sacrifice. That's true because what that statement reads back in its time when it was written, it means that it's better never to have sinned than to sin and then have to shed the blood of an animal to get cleansed from that sin. But how many of you that obedience is a sacrifice?

And while I was studying for this message I got different revelations from Romans 12 and one that I never seen before reading that passage I have read it, heard it preached many times, but I saw something different and I saw two different meanings. One of the meanings is as you probably first interpret it, was the living sacrifice and that with giving God your body something that is alive, living. The second meaning in revelation that jumped out to me as I was studying this was that if we present your body a living sacrifice, reading living sacrifice as in the way you live sacrifice or sacrifice in your day-to-day living unto him, so you give him a living sacrifice in the way that you live.

Let's read that whole verse again with that connotation in mind and see if we get the same meaning out of it, "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is your reasonable service." And to demonstrate the possible of being the living sacrifice, I like the story of Abraham Beninger. He was born in Switzerland in the 1700s. He and his parents they left their homeland and boarded a ship for America. During the journey both his mother and father died and were buried at sea, while just a boy he found himself on a strange land where he knew absolutely no one. However, he never let his misfortunes hold him back. As a young man he professed Christ as his savior. After hearing of the great misery and poverty among the blacks of Saint Thomas Island, he sought to travel there and to preach the gospel to them.

Upon his arrival there in Saint Thomas, he discovers that it was against the law for any person but a slave to preach to the slaves. It was the policy of the plantation owners to keep the blacks in ignorance and superstition. Shortly after this, the Governor received a letter from Beninger. In the letter, Beninger pleaded with the Government to then allow himself to be made a slave for the rest of his life. Beninger promised that he would serve as a slave faithfully providing he could give his leisure time to preaching to his fellow slaves. The Governor in turn sent the letter to the King of Denmark who was so touched by the willingness of Beninger and to sacrifice his freedom for the Gospel that he send an order that allowed Abraham Beninger to preach the Gospel whenever, and wherever he chose, to black or to white, to slave or to freemen. Beninger, he was willing to give up his earthly

freedom so that men and women who were in a temporary earthly slavery would be an eternal slavery in hell and in chains.

That's a living sacrifice that I've ever seen an example of one. Is a living sacrifice to live holy? Is a living sacrifice to tell someone about Jesus that's not a Christian? Is a living sacrifice to honor God with your ties and your offerings? Is a living sacrifice do take time to train up your children in the way of the Lord?

I'm married as a virgin and I can truly tell you that when I was single, every time I would get into a heated intimate situation, and I keep myself from having sex that it was a living sacrifice, I literally felt like my body was put on to oven had some fire put to it as a sacrifice every time. It's not easy being a living sacrifice but it pays much more than it costs. Here's our brother point for you. You can never sacrifice more to God than he can repay you. You can never sacrifice more to God than he can repay you.

The disciples talked about this point when they said, "Lord, we've given up houses, we've given up families, we've given up jobs for your sake. To come and follow you, what do we get in return Lord Jesus?" Jesus turned to them and said; "And nothing you've given won't be rewarded a hundred fold over and not only in this world but I will give you eternal life." It's like he said all of that in a bag of chips you get a hundred fold plus eternal life.

Many people in our church are doing the spiritual and physical fast located online at do42.com. It's a sacrifice. Many people think they're doing it for God, but God told pastor that 42 is actually for the people. People alone and they drop excess pounds, toxins are cleaned out of the body, negative addictions are broken in the spirit. And God told pass that each time that he completes it that there will be a blessing that will come in his life afterwards.

And we give God the sacrifice of praise; but when we praise him, healing is in our praise, emotional release can come in the praise; stress can come off or you while you praise him and you will find your energy is rejuvenated when you praise him. Most of all, we get the experience of his very presence when we praise him.

First Kings, Chapter three says, "Solomon offered God a thousand sacrifices." In the very next verse it says that, God came on to Solomon and says, "Solomon, Solomon, what will you ask of me to do for you?" And he had the ability to ask God anything that he wanted and he chose wisdom because he gave a thousand sacrifices in to God. I tell you, you can try but you can't beat God giving.

About two weeks ago, my eight-year old daughter Genesis, God spoke to her. I believe she was actually here at the ark when he spoke to her. She came home and told us. She said, "Mommy and Daddy, God has asked me if I would make sacrifice

of my food, and he asked me all that I eat raw living things for a certain number of days.” And we told her it was up to her and that she’d be blessed by obeying God but it’s a decision she had to make. It was something that she had to do. Mommy and Daddy can’t do it for her.

She decided to follow God’s instruction and to obey His Word. And she had just finished third grade, so you’re talking about a third grader, eight years old sacrificing her food. And she was going to camp there right then. She could only eat raw things as I mostly took fruit count with us and she was hungry and had never done anything like that before but she kept going through it. And she’s had -- she came home the first day and said, the hardest part was she won some games in the camp and they rewarded her with some candies. She goes, “Old days mom and dad,” and go, “Get me a bag of candy for winning this thing.” And she said I have to give my bag of candy away to other children because I couldn’t eat it and continue with what God asked me to do.”

While when she went through these days of staying on God’s diet, going against probably what natural wisdom what I’ve suggested for a child of this age. The very next day -- somebody in here say, “The very next day.” [*The very next day!*] As she was in count they had a little dance class and the dance teacher said, “I got the opportunity to work with some people on Sunday’s best.” And she said, “I’m going to choose two students to go down and audition for this thing.” She chose my daughter Genesis and her sister and they went down and they performed before Yolanda Adams. Yolanda said, “You are just blessed me so.” And they put them on their show to dance behind Yolanda Adam’s performing on National BET television on Sunday’s Best. Now, this is some thing -- we weren’t involved then at all. We weren’t even asked. We didn’t have passes to get in.

So it’s something that God did the very next before her and they met in the same dance behind Yolanda Adamson and they were there and met Kirk Franklin and Donnie McClurkin, Todd, and Kurt Carr and the host of other Gospel music legends of the Grace of God. A third great of obeying the word of the Lord in private, he publicly rewarded her beyond something that mom and daddy could do.

[Applause]

And they had more exposure at eight years old and I’ve had at my -- I’m not going to give you my age but instead. In my age, I’ve never been on that type of TV but it was also the simple sincere obedience of a child. My wife and I years ago, when we first got married, we’ve prayed to God concerning our children and He led us to have seven children. And He promised that if we would have these seven children, we would experience blessings like we’ve never seen them.

We were obedient to His word and we had those seven children and it was a great sacrifice to have those children. My wife's body had to go out of wax seven times and had to go through bodily adjustment. We had to sacrifice our time. Get enough at night and dealing with all of the diapers, and all of the milking, all of the money that was involved in putting kids through Day Care, in pretty school and all of the growth for bios, but we did it.

And after all seven -- one morning, early in the morning, I was walking through the house. I was just going through while everybody was asleep and just praying over the children, just touching them and just thanking God for what a blessing that they were. And it was like a revelation just washed over me. As I was thanking God for the blessing of each one of them that it hit my spirit that the blessing that He promised, that we were waiting on a financial term were actually already manifested in the children themselves, the children were actually the blessings themselves.

Now, I had a birthday earlier this weekend. I got a lot of gifts. I got about a 100 wishes on Facebook and I got cards on the mail and my wife had people over to the house and got all the types of things for my birthday, but out of all the things that I got for my birthday, all of the cards, all of the wishes, all of the gifts, the one that touched my heart the most was that same eight year old daughter. She gave me a card and scribbled on the card was, "Daddy, I've always loved you."

And it just did something to me and some of my other cards, my children they would write a message and wrote love with the name behind it but Harris was different. He went to another level. He said, "Daddy, I've always loved you." And I could just feel the sincerity of it from my heart. She wanted to let me know that dad I don't just love you on your birthday but from the day I was born and I've loved you.

[Applause]

Daddy, I don't just love you on Christmas. I love you everyday. I don't just love you on Father's Day, but I love you everyday. And we'll always love you. And it touched my heart and it just made me realized that I'm a father and I believe our Father in heaven wants us to come to Him with the same heart. If we could just look to him and pray and say, "Daddy, I've always loved you." No matter whether I'm rich or poor, I love you. No matter whether I'm feeling good or feeling bad, I love you daddy! No matter who comes and goes in my life, I love you. Whether I get the promotion and not on my job, I still love you, Lord. And I believe it will touch you more than how money they will give. More than the time we give to the church, more than anything that we'll just -- would cry out that we love Him. And it touched me more than anything else.

In 2Kings Chapter 4, there was a Shunammite woman that the Bible talks about. And she would feed the prophet Elijah whenever he would come to the area. After a while, the Shunammite woman, she took it to another level just from fixing dinner and she spoke with her husband and she says, "Why not let's fix up a room for the prophet, that when He comes, it have some whether lay his head that he could call his own."

So they put a bed, and a table and desk and they fixed up this room for the prophet Elijah. And they took care of him whenever he would come to town. And after a while, he just began to feel grateful for this woman. And he called her in one day while he was in his room and he said, "Woman, what can the prophet do for you? You've been so gracious to me. What can the prophet do for you? Do you want me to speak to the King on your behalf and give you favor? Do you want me to talk to the commander of the army on your behalf?" The woman thought about it. She said, "No, prophet. God has already blessed me. I really don't need anything."

And she had the most powerful man in the land, the one who communicated with God who was able to raise -- of his bones asking her, what do you want me to do that could make all keep coming, flower keep coming in. And yet, she said, "God has already blessed me. I don't need anything further but he wanted to do something for the woman. And when she left out, his servant came to him and said, "Prophet, the woman is old and she has no children, her husband is old." I believe it will bless her to give her a child.

So, he said, call her back in, and he called the woman back in. And he said, by this time next year, you'll be holding a baby boy in your arms. And I really like this woman's response. He said, "What did you just say now, prophet?" And she said, "I know you're a holy man. Don't lie to an old woman. Don't lie to me." And he said, "By this time, next year, you'll be holding a baby boy in your arms." By that time next year, she was holding a baby boy in her arms.

And I tell you, all of that story to tell you that if you take care of God's business, that you'll impregnate you with a blessing. That if you made room for God in your house, you might say that your house is too small, you don't have enough rooms to give God a room, but if you just take a room and take a corner and put out a prevention, put out a prayer area and just dedicate the area unto God that he will impregnate you with a blessing, that you don't have room enough to receive, and I thought about it the day I said, we've put a prayer area in our room and dedicated it to God and within 10 years we have seven children out of that room. I said that, "Dangerous blessing there!" But I saw the manifestation of him impregnating you. When you made a room for him in your house, giving him an area.

They bought about Turkey Company. They set up a hot land to answer consumer questions about preparing holiday turkeys. And one woman called in to inquire

about cooking a turkey that had been on her freezer for 23 years. So she called in and said, "I've had this turkey in the freezer in a little while and I wanted to know if it was still safe to cook." Well, this lady said, "How long has it been in there?" She said, "It's just 23 years." So after that, she had to check with the manager and then she's hadn't heard of turkey been that long. So they came back to the phone and said, "Well Ma'am, if the freezer has been kept below zero for all of those years, then it's probably still safe to eat. But she said, but 23 years, this has lost all of the flavor and everything. So we still wouldn't recommend it."

So the lady heard the answer. She didn't argue with it. She just replied that's what we thought. We'll just give it to the church then. (Laughter] And I tell you, that's the attitude of many Christians. They give the world our best but give God what's left. They'll stay out all night party in Saturday night. Come to church Sunday morning tired and sleepy and go to sleep on the pastor. They've given their world their energy, that good time. We'll pray and try to read the Bible at night when we sleep in and fall asleep many times with our heads in the word or in our hands. Or, we'll just lay in bed sometimes and pray because we're just too sleep and we just stand up on our knees and pray.

We'll buy what the world glamorizes and complain that we really don't have the money to tie. And I'm here tonight to tell you that God wants our best and that's why he accepted Abel's offer but not Cain's. He gave his best. He's always commanded the first fruits of the harvest and the animals without spot or blemish. He doesn't just ask for our best though. He gave us His best, His first fruit, His only begotten Son just for us, Jesus.

So he's not asking us to do something that he's not already done himself. Here is a brother point. God wants most in our lives the things we want to keep for ourselves most. He wants our time, but we want more free time, we want physical players but however we can get it. But he wants us to love our spouses and restrict sex on the marriage. We want more money to spend but he wants us to give more. We want to see him smart but He wants us to be wise. We want to be recognized but He wants us to glorify Him.

God wants the very things that we want the most from our lives. And my mother years ago, back when we were holding Bible class in our home in the living room. One year when my father went out of town, she took the opportunity. Somebody say the opportunity, *[the opportunity]* and that He was gone out the country, so when I came asking he's not here and she went out to the furniture store and bought some very expensive furniture, and she redecorated the whole living room. She brought new coffin and laid it out and replaced all of the sofa with just fine elegant furniture, with all types of ornaments on it.

And after she got everything done and laid out the way she wanted and she looked over them. And she said, "I'm going to have to move the Bible class to the basement or the patio because this thing is too fine not bring all these folks and tear my stuff up." So I went to sleep that night and when she awakened the next morning, God ringed these words in a spirit from Isaiah 60:13, "The place of his feet is glorious." And when she heard it, she knew that she had to keep the Bible class in that fine room that she had just redecorated. And she gave God her prettiest, her finest room. And in return, he gave unto her four ministers of the Gospel that were trained in that very room.

She gave him her best and dedicated it onto him and he took care of her own and gave them back unto her. And if you would be the living sacrifice and allow him to dwell in your home, to dwell in your body, to dwell in your life and your heart, then even if your world is not glorious right now. If he stays there long enough, some sins will get cleaned up, get fixed up, we'll get upgraded up, because the place of his feet is glorious.

Here is another brother point. If you place Him first, he'll make your life first class. God is the King of Kings and imagine if earthly royalty had to come and visit with you in your home, if they stayed with you long enough then the servants of that royalty would have to come and fix up your place and raise it to the standards of the royalty that is staying there. And I tell you when the King comes, you'll have to do things his way off. You can't have a king come to your house and you have everything, you want to eat what you want to eat and you want to watch on TV what you want to watch. You have the temperature of what you want. You got to please the king that's over the land.

When we try to do it our way, then it makes the king feel unwelcome and he'll have to leave and go back into his own kingdom. You may have grown up -- but when the King comes, don't try to cook in your house for the royalty and put it at the table. And I tell you today, if you will prepare a place for him, place him first in your life that he will take your life, he will bless it. He will impregnate you with something that will bless your life for generations to come and he will leave it never to be the same again.

I thank you today for joining us at Brothers of the Word. You can go to [BrothersofTheWord.com](http://BrothersofTheWord.com) and hear this summary and its entirety or send it to a friend there. I hope you will be blessed by the Word today.

God bless you! I thank you for tuning in to Brothers of The Word, because brother you need the Word.

[Applause]