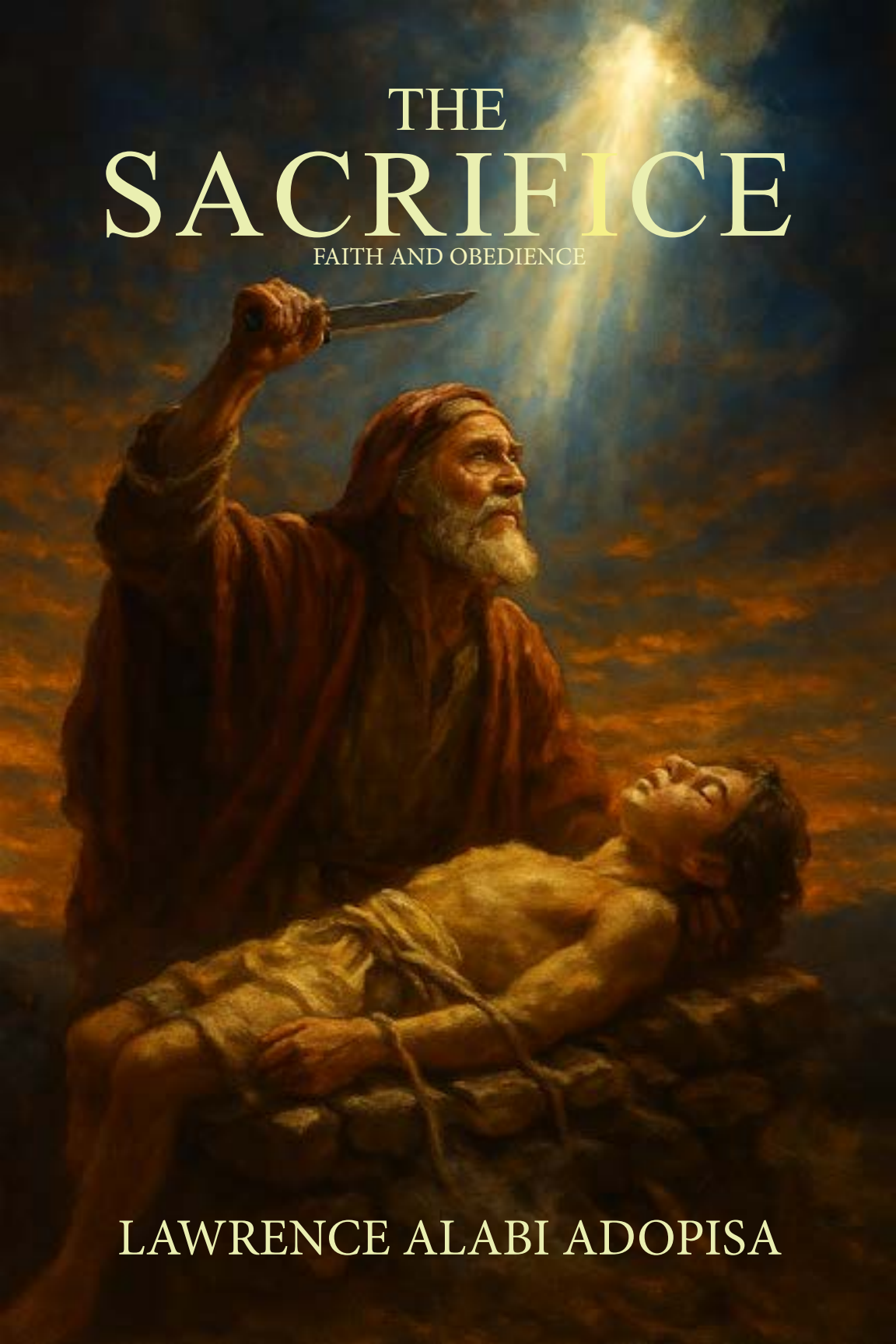
THE SACRIFICE

FAITH AND OBEDIENCE



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THE SACRIFICE

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THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO GOD ALMIGHTY, THE END TIME REDEMPTION MINISTRY AND ALL BELEIVERS.
A WAKEUP CALL



Introduction

Every great story of faith in Scripture is marked by sacrifice. From the first offering of Abel to the costly worship of David, from the lonely journey of Abraham to the cross of Christ, we see one truth repeated: **faith that pleases God will always cost something.**

Abraham, the father of faith, stands as the principal example. His life was not a tale of comfort but of surrender. He left his homeland with no certainty of where he was going, clung to promises that seemed impossible, and walked up Mount Moriah with the son of his old age, believing that God was able even to raise the dead. Through his pain, obedience, and unwavering trust, Abraham discovered that **sacrifice is not loss—it is the seed of blessing.**

But Abraham was not alone. Noah built an ark in a world that mocked him. Moses walked away from the splendour of Egypt to suffer with God's people. Joseph endured prison rather than compromise his purity. David refused to offer to God what cost him nothing. The apostles gave their lives for the gospel, counting everything else as dung for the excellency of knowing Christ.

Their faith was not casual. It was deep, rugged, and sacrificial. Today, our generation wrestles with a lighter version of faith—one that often seeks

blessing without surrender, comfort without cost. Yet the God of Abraham has not changed. He still calls His people to give Him their all, to trust Him when obedience hurts, and to believe that no sacrifice for His sake is wasted.
This book is a journey through the lives of the patriarchs and pioneers of faith. We will walk with Abraham, weep with Joseph, labour with Moses, worship with David, and suffer with the apostles. Along the way, we will hold their faith beside our own and ask: what does true sacrifice look like today? How can we recover a faith that costs but also rewards?
As you read, may you be stirred to surrender afresh to God. For **the path of sacrifice is not a path of sorrow—it is the gateway to blessing, fruitfulness, and eternal reward.**

PART ONE

ABRAHAM– The Pattern of Sacrifice



The Call to Leave All

(Genesis 12:1–4)

When God first spoke to Abraham, His words were not a subtle suggestion. They were a command that demanded immediate surrender: *"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee" (Genesis 12:1).*

This was the first test of Abraham's faith. God did not begin with promises of wealth or comfort. He began with a call to leave everything familiar—his homeland, his extended family, his father's household—and walk into the unknown. It was a call to step away from certainty into trust.

The Weight of Leaving All

For Abraham, this was not a small matter. In the ancient world, identity was tied to land, tribe, and family. To leave them behind was to risk everything—security, inheritance, protection, and belonging. It meant becoming a wanderer, relying on God alone for guidance and provision. Imagine the conversations Abraham might have had:

- His relatives asking, “Where exactly are you going?”
- His father, Terah, perhaps disappointed, wondering why his son would abandon the family heritage.
- Neighbours mocking: “He is chasing after a God he cannot see!”

This won’t be easy for Abraham to comprehend, voices around, inheritance to leave behind are enough reason for him to stay back. Leaving was painful, but it was the price of obedience.

Faith Without Full Details

Notice that God did not show Abraham the land in advance. He only said, “unto a land that I will shew thee.” Faith, in its truest form, often walks without a map. Abraham obeyed not because he knew all the answers but because he trusted the One who called him.

This is where many of us struggle today. We want God to show us every step before we take the first. But genuine faith begins with obedience in the dark, trusting God to unfold His plan one step at a time.

The Promise behind the Command

Though the call was hard, it was not empty. God wrapped it with promises:

“I will make of thee a great nation”

“I will bless thee”

“Thou shalt be a blessing”

“In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:2–3)

The blessings of Abraham’s life were tied to his obedience. If he had clung to his homeland, he would have missed his destiny. Sacrifice always precedes glory.

Lessons for Us Today

Abraham's call speaks directly to us:

Sacrifice may mean leaving comfort zones – Sometimes God calls us to step away from jobs, relationships, or environments that hinder our destiny.

Faith means obeying without full clarity – We may not know what tomorrow holds, but we can trust the One who holds tomorrow.

Blessings follow obedience – God's promises are certain, but they are often unlocked by sacrifice.

Our Call to Leave All

Jesus echoed the same principle centuries later: *"Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33).*

To follow Christ is to leave behind sin, pride, worldly ambitions, and at times even relationships that draw us away from Him.
We may not all be called to leave our homeland as Abraham did, but every believer is called to leave something behind for the sake of Christ. The question is: will we obey, even when we don't have all the answers?

Reflection Questions

1. What "homeland" or comfort zone might God be asking you to step away from?
2. How do you respond when God asks you to obey without giving all the details?
3. In what ways can you be a blessing to others, as Abraham was?

Prayer

Lord, give me the courage to obey You, even when I do not understand the full picture. Help me to let go of anything that stands in the way of Your call on my life. May my obedience bring glory to You and blessing to others. Amen.



The Pain of Waiting

(Genesis 15, 17, 21)

If Abraham's first test was leaving all, his second was waiting. Waiting is often harder than leaving, because leaving requires a moment of decision, but waiting demands years of endurance.

God had promised Abraham that he would become a great nation, yet the years passed and Sarah remained barren. By the time Abraham reached ninety-nine, he had been walking with the promise for nearly twenty-five years without seeing its fulfilment. This long wait was not wasted time—it was God's classroom of faith.

The Weight of Delay

Abraham and Sarah faced the constant ache of disappointment. Month after month, year after year, no child came. Their neighbours likely whispered, "Where is the blessing your God promised?" Sarah grew old, and her womb seemed beyond hope. Abraham's body weakened, and nature itself testified against the promise. One would have imagined that heed-

ing God's call to leave should have earned him a child automatically, but instead it introduced another test. Many believers today only hold on to the first test of obedience, expecting God's miracle, whereas more tests are still to come.

Waiting often feels like silence from heaven. But in God's plan, delay is never denial. It is preparation.

Faith in the Face of Doubt

In Genesis 15, Abraham cried out, *"Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless…?" (v.2).* His heart was heavy with doubt. God responded by taking him outside to look at the stars: *"So shall thy seed be" (v.5).*

Faith is not the absence of doubt but the decision to trust God's word above our doubts. Abraham believed, and God counted it as righteousness (Genesis 15:6).

The Temptation to Find Shortcuts

While waiting, Abraham and Sarah attempted to solve the problem themselves through Hagar, Sarah's maid (Genesis 16). Ishmael was born, but he was not the child of promise.

Many believers still fall into this trap. When God seems slow, we look for human shortcuts. But man-made solutions often create future pain. Only God's way leads to lasting fulfilment.

God's Faithfulness in His Time

At last, when Abraham was one hundred years old and Sarah ninety, the

Lord visited them. Isaac was born—the impossible child. The long years of waiting ended in laughter. Sarah said, *"God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me" (Genesis 21:6).*
What seemed dead was brought to life. The wait revealed that the promise depended not on human strength but on God's power.

Lessons for Us Today

- Waiting is part of God's process – True faith is tested not in moments but in seasons.
- Delays do not cancel God's promises – His timing is perfect, even when it feels slow.
- Beware of shortcuts – Our impatience can birth Ishmaels that complicate the future.
- God specialises in the impossible – The longer the wait, the greater the glory when He fulfils His word.

Our Season of Waiting

Every believer will face times of waiting. Perhaps it is waiting for healing, a breakthrough, a spouse, a child, or a ministry opportunity. In those moments, the challenge is to trust God when the evidence seems against us. We might want to settle for Ishmael instead of waiting for the promise. *We may get Ishmael easily, but he can never be the promised Isaac and can never produce the eternal blessings God promised.*
As Paul wrote of Abraham: "Who against hope believed in hope… and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:18–21).

Reflection Questions

1. What promise from God are you waiting for?
2. How do you handle the silence of God during long delays?
3. Are there any "shortcuts" you are tempted to take instead of waiting for God's way?

Prayer

Lord, strengthen my heart in the seasons of waiting. Keep me from impatience and from seeking human shortcuts. Help me to trust Your timing, knowing that what You have promised, You are able to perform. Amen.



The Supreme Test and the Blessing of Moriah

(Genesis 22; 2 Chronicles 3:1)

If waiting tested Abraham's endurance, Moriah tested his heart. The promise had finally come. Isaac, the son of laughter, the child of covenant, was growing strong. But then came the unthinkable command: *"Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of" (Genesis 22:2).*

Was God wicked?...

This was no ordinary trial. Abraham was asked to place on the altar the very promise he had waited decades for.

The Supreme Test of Love and Obedience

Notice the language God used: *"thine only son… whom thou lovest."* God was not testing Abraham's affection for Isaac but his devotion to Himself. Did Abraham love the gift more than the Giver?

Sacrifice is always a matter of the heart. God does not compete with our idols—He calls us to lay them down.

Abraham rose early and journeyed to Moriah. There, with trembling hands and a breaking heart, he bound Isaac and laid him on the altar. Here, Abraham was not playing tricks with God, neither was he pretending; he fully intended to sacrifice Isaac. Imagine the anguish of a father who had waited twenty-five long years, through tears, ridicule, and hopeless nights, finally holding the miracle child of his old age, only to be asked by the same God who gave him that child to place him on the altar of death. It is one thing for a parent to endure the natural loss of a child, but it is an agony beyond words for a father to raise the knife against the only son he had prayed, wept, and suffered to receive. With every step towards the altar Abraham's heart bled, torn between the deepest love of a father and the highest demand of obedience to God. This was the valley of pain Abraham walked through.

But just as he lifted the knife, God called out: *"Lay not thine hand upon the lad… for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me" (Genesis 22:12).*

The Blessing That Follows Sacrifice

At that moment, Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket. He offered it in Isaac's place and named the place Jehovah-jireh, "The Lord will provide."

When Abraham lifted the knife and proved his unshakable trust, heaven itself paused. Never before had God witnessed such faith from man — a mortal, frail, dust-made creature, yet willing to give up his dearest treasure without hesitation. The angels must have held their breath, watching a father surrender his only promised son. And God, beholding this rare depth of loyalty, could not remain silent. With emotion, He spoke again from

heaven: 'By Myself have I sworn.' Think of that — the Almighty, who needs no witness, found nothing greater in all of creation or eternity to guarantee His promise, so He swore by His own eternal name. Abraham's faith moved God to the highest oath possible, sealing blessings not just for him, but for generations yet unborn. That day, God revealed that He is deeply touched by the faith of man, and that true obedience draws from Him the greatest assurances.

Sacrifice always unlocks divine provision. When we give God our best, He responds with His best.

Moriah – The Place of God's Dwelling

Centuries later, the same Mount Moriah reappears in Scripture. Solomon built the temple of the Lord on that very site:

"Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father" (2 Chronicles 3:1).

The place where Abraham surrendered Isaac became the place where God chose to dwell among His people. The altar of sacrifice became the foundation of God's temple.

This is no accident. It is a divine pattern: *our places of deepest sacrifice become the places of God's greatest presence*. Where something dies in obedience, God chooses to live in glory.

Lessons for Us Today

- Sacrifice reveals our heart – God tests whether we love Him above all else.
- God provides where we surrender – Abraham's ram was revealed only when Isaac was laid on the altar.

- Sacrifice makes room for God's presence – Just as Moriah be came God's dwelling place, our sacrifices open the way for Him to manifest in our lives.
- The ultimate fulfilment is Christ – Centuries later, on another hill near Moriah, God did not spare His own Son, but offered Him for the salvation of the world (Romans 8:32). Christ is the true Isaac, the Lamb provided for us all.

Our Moriah Today

Every believer has a "Moriah" moment—when God asks us to lay down what we love most. It may be an ambition, a relationship, a possession, or even our will. Sacrifice is never easy, but it is always the path to greater blessing and deeper intimacy with God.

The temple of God today is no longer stone, but our very lives. Paul writes: *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16).* Just as Solomon built God's house on Moriah, so God builds His dwelling in us when we yield ourselves in sacrifice.

Reflection Questions

1. What "Isaac" in your life is God asking you to surrender?
2. Have you discovered that the places of greatest sacrifice are also the places of God's richest presence?
3. How does Christ's sacrifice on the cross shape your view of obe dience and surrender?

Prayer

Father, give me the grace to lay down whatever You ask of me. May my life be an altar, my heart a dwelling place for Your presence. Teach me to love You above all else, and let my sacrifices open the way for Your glory.

Amen.

PART TWO

Other Patriarchs of Sacrifice



Noah: The Sacrifice of Obedience in a Corrupt World

(Genesis 6–9)

Noah lived in a world dark with sin. Scripture tells us, *"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (Genesis 6:11).* Everyone followed the path of wickedness, except one man: Noah. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

God commanded Noah to build an ark—a massive vessel that would save his family and the animals from the coming flood. This command required not only skill and resources but also unshakable obedience in the face of ridicule.

Obedience Against the Tide

For years, Noah built an ark on dry land, preaching righteousness to a people who laughed at the very idea of rain. The world mocked him, but he pressed on. His sacrifice was obedience to God when everyone else turned their back.

Sometimes the greatest sacrifice is standing for God when the world moves in the opposite direction. *Obedience is costly when it makes you*

look foolish.

Faith in the Unseen

Hebrews 11:7 tells us: *"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house."* Rain was unheard of. Floods were unimaginable. Yet Noah built for what he could not see. His obedience became the means of salvation for his household.

The Sacrifice After Salvation

After the flood, Noah built an altar and offered burnt offerings. Scripture records: *"And the LORD smelled a sweet savour" (Genesis 8:21)*. His sacrifice brought pleasure to God and led to a covenant of mercy with all creation.

Noah's story shows that obedience before the storm and sacrifice after deliverance both matter. We honour God not only in what we do before salvation but also in how we respond with gratitude afterwards.

Lessons for Us Today

- Obedience may draw ridicule – True faith often looks foolish in the eyes of the world.
- Faith acts on unseen warnings – Trusting God means preparing for what others cannot yet see.
- Gratitude must follow deliverance – After every salvation, heal ing, or breakthrough, we owe God an altar of thanksgiving.

Obedience in Our Day

We live in times not unlike Noah's—days filled with violence, corruption, and mockery of righteousness. God is still calling men and women to obey Him, to live holy, and to prepare for the coming of Christ. Our obedience may cost us popularity, opportunities, or comfort, but like Noah, it can become the means of salvation for our families and communities.

Reflection Questions

1. Where in your life are you tempted to follow the crowd instead of obeying God?
2. How do you respond when obedience makes you look foolish before others?
3. What "ark" is God asking you to build in faith today?

Prayer

Lord, help me to obey You even when others mock or misunderstand me. Give me the courage to stand for righteousness in a corrupt world. May my obedience bring salvation to my household and glory to Your name. Amen.



Moses: The Sacrifice of Privilege

(Hebrews 11:24–26; Exodus 2–3)

Moses' story is a striking example of sacrifice—not of poverty or weakness, but of privilege. Born a Hebrew yet raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses had access to Egypt's wealth, education, and power. By human standards, his future was secure. Yet Scripture says: *"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Hebrews 11:24–26).*
Moses sacrificed privilege for purpose.

The Comfort of Egypt

As a prince in Pharaoh's house, Moses had access to education, wealth, and authority. Egyptian royalty lived in splendour, surrounded by luxury. From a worldly perspective, Moses had everything to lose and nothing to

gain by identifying with slaves.
Yet he looked beyond the temporary to the eternal. He saw that sin's pleasures were only "for a season." Sacrifice is often choosing the eternal over the immediate.

The Pain of Identification

Moses' first act of solidarity was defending a Hebrew slave against an Egyptian oppressor (Exodus 2:11–12). Though this led to his exile, it revealed his heart: he chose to suffer with God's people rather than live comfortably with their oppressors.
True sacrifice often involves standing with the weak, the poor, or the persecuted—even when it costs us position, privilege, or safety.

The Call in the Wilderness

Moses spent forty years in Midian, stripped of his royal robes, tending sheep in obscurity. It was there, at the burning bush, that God revealed His plan to use him as a deliverer.
The sacrifice of privilege led to the discovery of divine purpose. Sometimes God removes us from worldly heights so He can entrust us with heavenly assignments.

Lessons for Us Today

- Sacrifice may mean refusing comfort – True faith sometimes asks us to turn down opportunities that compromise God's will.
- Standing with God's people has a cost – Identifying with Christ may bring ridicule or rejection, but it brings eternal reward.
- Sacrifice opens the door to purpose – By leaving Egypt, Moses

stepped into his destiny as Israel's deliverer.

Our Privileges and Our Purpose

In our time, sacrifice may not mean leaving a palace, but it may mean laying down ambition, status, or wealth to follow Christ's calling. Many believers are tempted to cling to comfort, but God calls us to invest our privileges for His kingdom. Like Moses, we must weigh temporary treasures against eternal reward.
Jesus Himself said: *"Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:25).*

Reflection Questions

1. What privileges or comforts might God be asking you to lay down for His purpose?
2. How can you stand with God's people—even when it costs you?
3. Are you willing to exchange short-term pleasure for eternal reward?

Prayer

Lord, help me not to cling to comfort or privilege at the expense of Your purpose. Teach me to see the eternal value of serving You above the fleeting pleasures of this world. May I, like Moses, choose Your will, even if it means suffering, because I know Your reward is greater. Amen.



Joseph: The Sacrifice of Purity

(Genesis 39; 41; 45)

Joseph's journey was marked by suffering, but one of his greatest tests came not in the pit or the prison, but in a private room with Potiphar's wife. He was young, handsome, and favoured, and temptation came in its most subtle form: not through hardship, but through desire.

"And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused…" (Genesis 39:7–8).

Joseph's choice was clear: either enjoy fleeting pleasure or honour God with his body. He chose purity, and it cost him dearly—but it also preserved his destiny.

The Test of Hidden Places

Temptation often comes when no one is watching. Potiphar's wife pursued Joseph day after day, yet Joseph refused, saying: *"How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9)*.

This reveals a deep truth: real sacrifice happens not only in public acts but in hidden decisions of the heart. Joseph valued God's presence above

secret pleasure.

The Cost of Saying No

Joseph's refusal did not earn him applause. Instead, it landed him in prison, falsely accused. Choosing purity brought suffering, not immediate reward.
This is the paradox of sacrifice: *obedience may lead us into a pit before it lifts us to a palace*. Yet integrity is never wasted in God's eyes.

The Reward of Purity

Though prison awaited him, God's favour never left Joseph. The same God who watched him resist temptation raised him to be governor of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. His purity preserved his destiny and positioned him to save nations during famine.
Purity may feel costly in the moment, but its rewards far outweigh the sacrifice.

Lessons for Us Today

- Purity is a sacrifice of love for God – Saying no to sin is not about rules but about devotion.
- Integrity may cost us opportunities – Like Joseph, we may lose status or favour in the short term, but God honours righteousness in the long run.
- Destiny depends on purity – Some doors only open to those who keep themselves clean before God.

Purity in a Corrupt World

We live in an age where immorality is celebrated, and compromise is normal. Yet God still calls His people to holiness. Every believer faces their own "Potiphar's wife"—opportunities for hidden sin that promise pleasure but threaten destiny.

Joseph's life shows us that purity is not weakness but strength, not loss but preservation. As Paul wrote, *"Flee fornication… for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:18–20).*

Reflection Questions

1. What areas of hidden temptation are you facing today?
2. How do you remind yourself that purity is not just about rules, but about honouring God?
3. Can you identify times when integrity cost you something, but preserved your walk with God?

Prayer

Lord, keep my heart pure and my body holy for You. Give me the strength to say no when temptation comes, even at great cost. Help me to see that obedience protects my destiny and brings honour to Your name. Amen.



David: The Sacrifice of Worship and Repentance

(2 Samuel 6; 2 Samuel 24:24; Psalm 51)

David's life is made up of both victories and failures. He was a shepherd, a warrior, a king, a poet—and yet also a sinner who stumbled. But what defined David was not perfection, but his heart of worship and his readiness to repent. His sacrifices were not only offerings of animals but of his pride, his dignity, and his broken spirit before God.

The Sacrifice of Worship

When the ark of the covenant was brought into Jerusalem, David danced with all his might before the Lord (2 Samuel 6:14). He laid aside his royal robes and humbled himself in worship. His wife Michal despised him, but David replied: "I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight" (v.22).

Worship cost David his dignity in the eyes of men, but it won him the pleasure of God. True worship is costly—it requires humility, vulnerability, and wholehearted devotion.

Later, in 2 Samuel 24:24, when offered a free threshing floor for sacrifice, David refused, saying: "I will not offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing." For David, worship without sacrifice was empty.

The Sacrifice of Repentance

David also teaches us about sacrifice in repentance. After his sin with Bathsheba, he did not hide or excuse his failure. Instead, he fell before God with a broken heart, crying: *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:17).*

Repentance is perhaps the hardest sacrifice, because it demands the death of pride. Yet it is the one God always honours.

The Fruit of Sacrificial Living

Because of his heart of worship and repentance, God established David's throne forever. Out of his lineage came the Messiah, Jesus Christ—the ultimate sacrifice and King of kings.

David's life reminds us that sacrifice is not only in what we give materially, but in how we live spiritually: humble before God, repentant when we fall, and lavish in worship.

Lessons for Us Today

• Worship must cost us something – True worship is more than words, it is giving our best in time, energy, resources, and devotion.

•Repentance is a sacrifice God treasures – A contrite heart moves

heaven more than outward rituals.

- Our sacrifices have generational impact – David's worship and repentance paved the way for the coming of Christ.

Worship and Repentance in Our Lives

Many today want worship without cost, and grace without repentance. David shows us a better way. God seeks worshippers who give Him their best and repentant hearts that refuse to remain in sin. Both are sacrifices that attract His presence.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman: *"The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23).* Worship and repentance are the sacrifices that make us His dwelling place.

Reflection Question

1. Does your worship cost you something, or is it only convenient?

2. How quick are you to repent when you fall short before God?

3. In what ways can you make your life a daily offering of worship to the Lord?

Prayer

Father, teach me to worship You with my whole heart and to hold nothing back. Break every pride in me that resists repentance. May my life be an offering of worship and a sacrifice of surrender that pleases You always. Amen.



The Apostles: The Sacrifice for the Gospel

(Acts 4:18-20; Acts 5:41; Acts 7:54-60; Acts 12:1-3)

The apostles were ordinary men—fishermen, tax collectors, zealots—yet they became extraordinary vessels because they were willing to lay everything down for Christ. Their sacrifices were not of bulls and goats, but of their lives, comfort, and safety, so that the gospel could reach the ends of the earth.

The Sacrifice of Bold Witness

After the resurrection, Peter and John were arrested and commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus. But they declared: *"We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).*

Their obedience to God came at the cost of persecution, imprisonment, and rejection. Yet they rejoiced *"that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41).*

Bold witness is costly, but it is also powerful—it turns the world upside down (Acts 17:6).

The Sacrifice of Life

Stephen, the first Christian martyr, gave his life while declaring the truth. As stones rained down upon him, he lifted his eyes to heaven and prayed: *"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60).*
James, the brother of John, was killed by the sword of Herod (Acts 12:2). Church history records that nearly all the apostles, except John, faced violent deaths for the sake of Christ.
Their sacrifice of life reminds us that the gospel we freely hear today was paid for by the blood of faithful witnesses.

The Sacrifice of Comfort

Paul, though once a Pharisee of high standing, gave up his reputation, safety, and freedom for Christ. He endured beatings, shipwrecks, hunger, sleepless nights, and prison cells (2 Corinthians 11:23-28). Yet he declared: *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ" (Philippians 3:7).*
The apostles left behind not only nets and tax booths but the very idea of a comfortable life. They embraced hardship as their portion for the sake of Christ.

The Fruit of Sacrificial Witness

Because of their sacrifices, the gospel spread from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth. What they laid down became the seed of the Church we belong to today.
Their example reminds us that Christianity is not built on convenience, but on costly devotion.

Lessons for Us Today

- The gospel advances when believers are bold, even when it costs comfort or safety.
- Sacrifice may demand our reputation, time, and even our lives.
- We are beneficiaries of the apostles' sacrifice—will others benefit from ours?

Living Apostolic Sacrifice Today

True discipleship still calls for sacrifice. We may not all face martyrdom, but we are called to lay down selfish desires, worldly ambitions, and the approval of men to live for Christ. The Church grows when believers put Christ above everything else.

Jesus said: *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).*

Reflection Questions

1. What have you given up for the sake of Christ?
2. Do you see suffering for Christ as shame or honour?
3. How can your life today reflect the same sacrificial spirit of the apostles?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the price the apostles paid for the gospel. Give me boldness to witness without fear, grace to endure hardship, and a heart willing to sacrifice for Your name. May my life also become a seed that brings glory to You and blessing to generations. Amen.



Jesus Christ: The Ultimate Sacrifice

(Hebrews 9:11-14; John 1:29; Hebrews 10:10-14; Matthew 26:39)

Every altar, every prophet, every priest, every apostle pointed to one greater sacrifice: Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is not just an example of sacrifice—He is the fulfilment of it.

Jesus, the Lamb of God

When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he declared: “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).
The lambs of the Old Testament could cover sin temporarily, but they could not take it away. Jesus, however, came as the perfect Lamb—spotless, blameless, and eternal. His sacrifice does not just cover sin; it removes it completely.

The Willing Sacrifice

In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed: *"O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39).*
He could have called twelve legions of angels to deliver Him, but He chose obedience to the Father. His willingness teaches us that true sacrifice is not forced—it is surrendered in love.

The Perfect and Final Sacrifice

The writer of Hebrews says: *"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10).*
Unlike priests who offered sacrifices repeatedly, Christ offered Himself once, and that single act was enough to redeem all who believe. His blood speaks better things than the blood of Abel (Hebrews 12:24).

The Sacrifice of Love

At the heart of Christ's sacrifice was love. *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).*
Jesus did not die for the righteous, but for sinners (Romans 5:8). His sacrifice was not just physical pain, but the weight of our sin upon His shoulders, the separation from the Father, and the shame of the cross.

The Fruit of His Sacrifice

Through His death, we have life. Through His blood, we have forgiveness. Through His sacrifice, we are reconciled to God. Through His resurrec-

tion, we have hope eternal.
His sacrifice did not just purchase salvation for individuals; it birthed the Church and opened the way for all nations to enter God's kingdom.

Lessons for Us Today

- All our sacrifices find meaning in Christ. Without Him, they are empty rituals.
- True sacrifice is born out of love and obedience to God.
- His once-for-all sacrifice frees us from striving for righteousness by works—we are accepted in Him.

Living in Christ's Sacrifice

To follow Christ means to live in the power of His sacrifice. We no longer bring lambs to an altar, but we bring our lives to Him as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).
Every act of surrender, every choice to love, every step of obedience becomes acceptable to God because it is offered in Christ.

Reflection Questions

1. Do you live as though Christ's sacrifice is enough, or do you try to earn God's favour by works?
2. In what areas of your life do you need to surrender like Jesus in Gethsemane?
3. How can you make His love visible to others through your own sacrifices?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Lamb of God who takes away my sin. I accept Your sacrifice as enough for my salvation. Teach me to live in the power of Your love and to lay down my life daily as a living sacrifice. May my life continually point to You, the perfect offering. Amen.

PART THREE

Our Sacrifice as Believers



Our Sacrifice as Believers

(Romans 12:1–2; Hebrews 13:15–16; Philippians 2:17; 2 Timothy 4:6)

Every altar in Scripture leads us to one conclusion: God still calls for sacrifice. But in Christ, the nature of sacrifice has changed. We no longer bring bulls or goats; we bring our very selves.

Living Sacrifices

Paul exhorts us: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).*
Unlike dead sacrifices of old, we are living sacrifices. This means that daily, moment by moment, we are placed upon the altar of obedience. Our sacrifice is not an occasional event but a lifestyle.

Sacrifice of Praise

Hebrews 13:15 declares: *"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."*
Praising God in good times is easy. But when praise flows in hard seasons,

it becomes a true sacrifice. Our lips become like incense, rising before His throne.

Sacrifice of Service and Giving

The writer continues: *"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Hebrews 13:16).*
Every act of kindness, every gift, every service to others is a sacrifice when done in the name of Christ. Giving is no longer just an offering at the altar, but an act of worship in our daily lives.

Sacrifice of Suffering

Paul said: *"Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all" (Philippians 2:17).*
Sacrifice often involves suffering. It may mean losing comfort, reputation, or even life. Paul, at the end of his race, said: *"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand" (2 Timothy 4:6).* True sacrifice is costly, but never wasted.

Sacrifice of Self-Will

The greatest sacrifice is to lay down our will for God's will. This mirrors Jesus at Gethsemane. It is not always about what we give outwardly, but what we surrender inwardly—our pride, our ambitions, our desires—so that God's will may prevail.

Lessons for Us Today

- The call to sacrifice is not outdated—it is the believer's daily calling.
- True sacrifice is more about the heart than the act.
- God is pleased with our sacrifices when they are rooted in love and obedience, not obligation.

Living the Sacrificial Life

- Start each day by presenting yourself to God afresh as a living sacrifice.
- Cultivate the habit of praise even in trials.
- Use your resources, time, and gifts to serve others as unto the Lord.
- Embrace suffering with joy, knowing it is part of your sacrifice.
- Constantly submit your will to God's will in prayer and obedi ence.

Reflection Questions

1. What does being a "living sacrifice" mean for you personally?
2. In what practical ways can your daily actions become sacrifices of service and worship?
3. Are there areas where your own will is fighting against God's will?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I present myself before You as a living sacrifice. Teach me to praise You in all seasons, to serve others with joy, to give generously, and to embrace Your will above mine. May my life be a continual offering that brings glory to Your name. Amen.



Conclusion

The Altar of Sacrifice and the Dwelling of God

From the patriarchs to the apostles, one truth has remained constant: God meets His people at the altar of sacrifice.

• In the Old Covenant, Abraham built an altar at Moriah, and there God provided a ram. That altar became the foundation of Solomon's Temple, showing us that the place of sacrifice is also the place of God's dwelling.

• In the New Covenant, Christ became both the Lamb and the Altar, offering Himself once for all. The cross of Calvary is now our eternal Moriah, the place where God's justice and mercy meet.

• For the believer today, the altar has moved into the heart. We are called to be living sacrifices, our lives the temple where God dwells, our daily obedience the fragrance of worship that rises before Him.

The story of sacrifice, therefore, is not about loss but about encounter. Every time we lay something down before God—our will, our praise, our service, even our suffering—we find that God Himself meets us there. The

altar is no longer a pile of stones in a distant land; it is the meeting place between God and His children in every generation.

Final Call

The altar of sacrifice is the dwelling place of God. Will you build it in your life today? Will you lay yourself upon it daily? For only at the altar does man truly encounter the fullness of God.

Let me ask you

Do you think you have obeyed God enough?
Do you think you have waited enough?
Do you think you have had faith in God enough?
Do you think you have sacrificed enough?

The truth is, only God can score you,

God bless you.

Closing Prayer

Lord, make my life an altar where You dwell. Teach me to surrender daily, to praise continually, to serve willingly, and to yield completely to Your will. May my sacrifice be pleasing in Your sight, and may Your presence dwell with me forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

HAVE YOU BEEN SAVED IN CHRIST?

Dear beloved, the best thing that can ever happen to you is to give your life to Christ; in Him you have peace, joy, happiness and a hope of eternity after the end of this world.

He is calling you to surrender to Him today for he said “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and i will give you rest. “(Matthew 11:28).

If you wish to give your life to Christ now say after me...

Lord Jesus Christ, i believe you are the son of God. That you love me, came into the world, died on the cross and rose again for the forgiveness of my sin. Please forgive me and come into my life. Please fill me with your Holy Spirit and help me to follow you as lord of my life. Thank you for saving me and giving me eternal life. In your name i pray. Amen.

Congratulations beloved, you are now redeemed. For questions, prayers and follow-up, please feel free to contact me on the links bellow.

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God bless you

JESUS CHRIST IS COMING SOON, WILL HE MEET YOU STILL FAITHFUL?

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Sacrifice traces the faith and surrender of Abraham, the patriarchs, and Christ Himself, showing how sacrifice became the meeting place between God and man. It challenges today's believer to see the altar not as loss, but as the dwelling place of God where blessings and divine presence are found.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lawrence Alabi Adopisa is the convener of Brighter Life Ministry. A ministry God has been using for a decade to enrich lives with daily devotionals and other Godly articles. Lawrence is a digital evangelist, preacher, teacher, motivator and counselor.

