

*What Others Say About THE SACRIFICE THAT PLEASES THE LORD*

There is an age old myth that says “A man dies daily only to be reborn in the morning bigger, better and wiser.” (Ernest Fox)

Just when one thinks they have heard all and read all that has to do with the giving of a sacrifice to God, and then comes another book that brings a higher perspective on this topic. Such is what the author, Aderinsola Obasa has done.

When you read this book on the giving of a sacrifice to God, you will see a very balanced detail on this subject. You will not only discover a sacrifice that pleases God, you will also discover the sacrifice that displeases Him.

I pray you benefit from this book as I have.

PASTOR DAPO WILLIAMS

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE CHURCH

THE SACRIFICE THAT PLEASES THE LORD

By

Adeinsola Obasa

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For further information or permission, address:

ADERINSOLA OBASA

[derin@thewordthatsuits.com](mailto:derin@thewordthatsuits.com), [derin.obasa@gmail.com](mailto:derin.obasa@gmail.com)

[www.thewordthatsuits.com](http://www.thewordthatsuits.com), [www.derinobasa.blogspot.com](http://www.derinobasa.blogspot.com)

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Scripture quotations are from the New International Version of the Bible

Take note that the name satan and related names are not capitalized. We choose not to acknowledge him, even to the point of violating grammatical rules.

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## *Introduction*

To love and be loved in return is a very good feeling. When you love someone and the person not only professes to love you in return but also expresses his/her love with several deeds and actions then you rest assured that indeed you are loved and that you have not wasted time and energy falling in love with your lover.

That God loves us is a fact that we have no basis to question given the various ways in which He continually expresses His unconditional love for us. But do we love Him in return and what are the things we have done to express our professed love for Him is a question we should always ask ourselves?

As you go through the chapters of this book, the Lord will grant you an understanding of the beauty of sacrifice, not as a ritual that must be followed, or as an obligation that must be met in order to get something in return, but as an expression of our heartfelt gratitude to the Lord who does not relent in loving us unconditionally.

You might be of the mindset that you have not enjoyed so much of the goodness of God by the reason of the various challenges of your life, but for me in the course of writing this book, I have learned that the secret of breakthrough lies in the ability to express gratitude for the very little or the assumed nothing that we have now. So that in our love for God this very little will be multiplied.

It is important to note that sacrifices to the Lord as an offering pleasing to Him is not restricted to the substances we have to offer, but also includes our time, body and even attitude. And for us to be confident that our sacrifice pleases the Lord, it is important that it is wrapped in love, holiness, and purity in total reverence to the Lord.

I have had a wonderful time being imparted by the Lord as He takes me through the chapters of this book, and I believe you will also be greatly impacted by the Lord as you read.

## *Chapter 1: The Acceptable Sacrifice*

### *Genesis 4:3-7*

*<sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruit of the soil as an offering to the Lord. <sup>4</sup>But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.*

*<sup>6</sup>Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup>If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”*

### **1 Samuel 15:22-23**

*<sup>22</sup>But Samuel replied:*

*“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

*<sup>23</sup>For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.*

*Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king.”*

### **Isaiah 1:11-14, 18-19**

*<sup>11</sup>“The multitude of your sacrifices - what are they to me?” says the Lord.*

*“I have more than enough burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.*

*<sup>12</sup>When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?*

*<sup>13</sup>Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your increase is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations - I cannot bear your evil assemblies.*

*<sup>14</sup>Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of them.*

*<sup>18</sup>“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.*

*<sup>19</sup>If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.” For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

I have come to the realization that in order to worship God and offer sacrifices that are pleasing unto the Lord, there are processes and in fact, there are steps to follow. From the scriptures above, we will wonder why a sacrifice will become a burden to the Lord. Surprisingly, it was Cain who made the first attempt at sacrificing to the Lord, yet God did not look at him and his sacrifice with favor. So, there is a need to ask a critical question; what went wrong with Cain's sacrifice?

When we think about God's reaction to Cain, it appears Cain knew what to do but he just didn't do it. He knew what the right thing to do was but still did not do it. Realizing this, we need to seek knowledge from God's word with regard to making sacrifices that are pleasing to the Lord. The Lord said in Isaiah 1:18 “Come let us reason together,” this tells me that God is willing to show us

and teach us how to offer sacrifices that are pleasing to Him. He went further to tell us that “if we obey, we will eat the best from the land and devouring by the sword awaits those who rebel and resist.” It is now very obvious that gaining knowledge on this matter is of great importance and benefit, and disobedience is with a consequence.

A lot of people find it hard to wait on the Lord in the midst of their challenges. They are too overwhelmed with their situation that they cannot see God anywhere around them when things are not going well with them. And so, for these ones, there is little or no reason to worship God at that time, and so talking to them about sacrificing to God seem out of place. And if for any reason they see a need to offer sacrifices, it is most probably as a result of the fact that they want God by reason of their sacrifice to blow away the challenges they are facing.

I have heard about people going to make absurd sacrifices and rituals to idols and lesser gods for peanuts of blessing that do not last, and for so much that they have to give to these idols and their foremen, they get very little and temporal solutions to their needs and problems. What they are asked to sacrifice is always far weightier than what they get in return.

From the scriptures above, we will see that there are sacrifices that do not please the Lord; there are sacrifices that are burdens to the Lord. I have discovered that in order to make a sacrifice to God, big or small, there are processes to be followed, and God's standard cannot be compromised neither can God be bribed or cajoled to give a stamp of approval on our misdeeds by reason of the sacrifices we offer. So, it is important to go back to the word of God and find out what it was that Cain knowingly did wrong in the course of offering up his sacrifice to God that rendered his sacrifice unacceptable. We need to find out exactly what it was that Cain was supposed to do right that would have made God look upon him and his sacrifice with favor.

### *The First Sacrifice*

At the beginning of age when God formed man in His likeness and image, we will notice that of all the assignments and instructions God left for Adam there was nothing said about sacrifice. That is to show that God did not create man in order for man to sacrifice to Him. In fact, when Cain and Abel made sacrifices to God it was out of their own free will, they were not asked by God to offer sacrifices.

Based on my understanding of this matter, sacrifices made to the Lord is a show of appreciation for the love, grace, mercy, and favor that the Lord God Almighty has poured out on us His children. When God gave the Law to Moses and made the request for sacrifices, He did it for two reasons; as atonement for sins committed and as a means of acknowledging and appreciating the goodness of God. All other reasons build on these two main reasons.

Unlike what obtains with idol worshipers, sacrifices to God are not mainly as a prerequisite for the expectations of returns from God. As we have read in the passages above, you can actually make

sacrifices to God that will be a burden to Him; you can make sacrifices to God that will not be looked upon with favor by God. It is not what you give that guarantees answers to your prayers.

From the scripture in 1 Samuel 13:6-14, we will notice the importance of doing things right when it comes to offering sacrifices to God. Saul was in a desperate situation; he was under attack by the Philistines and he needed to seek the Lord's favor and so he performed a duty only meant for the priest to perform.

You would have thought he was justified for his actions but not with God. So, from here, we can see that the sacrifices we offer do not guarantee answers to our pleas with God if it is not done right. The sacrifice of Saul actually got him in trouble rather than solve his problems.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 shows that there is something the Lord delights in far more than the sacrifices we have to offer. Indeed, there is a prerequisite to a pleasing sacrifice to the Lord. There is a giving that is far bigger and better than the substance we have to give to the Lord.

#### *Psalms 51:16-17*

*<sup>16</sup>You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*

*<sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

You will agree with me that the best gift to give someone is what you know the person likes and would appreciate. Cain just gave a gift, but Abel gave a gift that God appreciated. Now Psalm 51 tells us that the gift that delights the Lord is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite spirit. So, we are beginning to unfold what the mind of God is with regards to the issue of sacrifice.

So, the very first sacrifice that the Lord takes pleasure in is the sacrifice of a broken spirit and a contrite (sincerely remorseful) heart. A repentant and holy heart; a life of purity and reverence to God, that the Bible says is what pleases the Lord. This particular sacrifice supersedes all other sacrifices. It is the heart that sacrifices to the Lord that is more important than the substance been sacrificed.

As mentioned earlier, based on my own understanding, sacrifice to the Lord should be as a result of the love and appreciation we feel towards Him, it is a physical manifestation of the deep love we feel towards God. So if we agree to this interpretation of sacrifice, it will not be hard for us to conclude that it is a broken and contrite heart that has been given over to God that will love the Lord, and it's a heart that loves God that sacrifices to Him.

In our present day, just like in the Bible days, there are sacrifices that will be offered to God that will be offensive to Him, there are sacrifices that will be offered to God that will not be looked upon with favor by Him. A sacrifice offered by a person whose heart and spirit are not broken before God is a burden to God.

Sacrifices offered to God is unlike the sacrifices offered to idols, and if God is the Creator and Ruler of the heavens and the earth, then we know for sure He is not hungry, and He cannot be bribed. He created all things for Himself and so nothing is beyond His reach, we tend to enjoy all the benefits from our sacrifices anyway, but it has to be done right. A contrite and broken spirit precedes any other sacrifice made to the Lord.

From what we have discovered in the Bible so far, I am of the opinion that the sacrifice of Cain didn't reflect what the Lord expects of him. He gave a sacrifice quite alright, but it was not done with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Cain's sacrifice did not reflect a heart that truly loved the Lord as that of his brother Abel. Cain gave a portion of what he had, but Abel took time to select the best of what he had and offered it to God.

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