



## Does Christian Sacrifice Mean EVERYTHING?

**Matthew 5:11:** (NASB) *Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.*

Christians always talk about following after Jesus, following in his footsteps. What does that mean? Are we supposed to abandon every earthly possession and every earthly ambition to follow him? After all, isn't that what he did? Are we supposed to sacrifice all of our human will all of the time? Is the idea of Christian sacrifice a requirement for all Christians to follow through on in order to fulfill our calling? Stay with us as we look into this not too often discussed part of the Christian life to try and understand just how it is supposed to work.

### What is a Christian?

First, a look at the first use of "Christian" (a follower of Christ) in the scriptures:

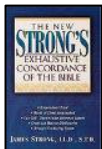
**Acts 11:19-25,26:** (NRSV) <sup>25</sup>Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup>and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians."

Now, a look at Jesus defining Christianity:

**John 6:44:** (NRSV) *No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.*

God has to draw us in first.

**Luke 14:25-26:** (NRSV) <sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>Whoever comes to me and does not **hate <3404>** father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my **disciple <3101>**.



**Hate:** Strongs #3404 *miseo* (mis-eh'-o); by extension, to love less

**Disciple:** Strongs #3101 *mathetes* (math-ay-tes'); a learner, i.e. pupil

Learning from Jesus is most important. Our priorities must be in order.



**Stephen's face: Suffering and the followers of Christ, Pastor John Piper, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org), [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)**

- *He shown like an angel. They could not resist his wisdom and they killed him.*

Stephen was persecuted and on trial for his life, but he still had the peace of God.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-26:** (NASB) <sup>12</sup>For even as the body is one and yet has <sup>12</sup>many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup>For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit...<sup>18</sup>But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>But now there are many members, but one body. <sup>21</sup>And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, <sup>24</sup>whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so



composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, <sup>25</sup>so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

This uses the concept of the human body as a picture of the body of Christ. In the early church, all Christians were from Jewish descent. After a period of years, the Gentiles came in. The Apostle teaches that it doesn't matter where we came from; we are all part of the same thing.

All members are important and play an important role, working together in harmony under the headship of Christ. All have something to contribute.

### What is sacrifice?

Some examples of the use of "sacrifice" from Merriam Webster Online Dictionary - there is a broad base of meaning.



- The war required everyone to make *sacrifices*.
- No *sacrifice* is too great when it comes to her children.
- He made many personal *sacrifices* to provide help to the city's homeless people.
- A place where priests performed human *sacrifices* in ancient rituals.

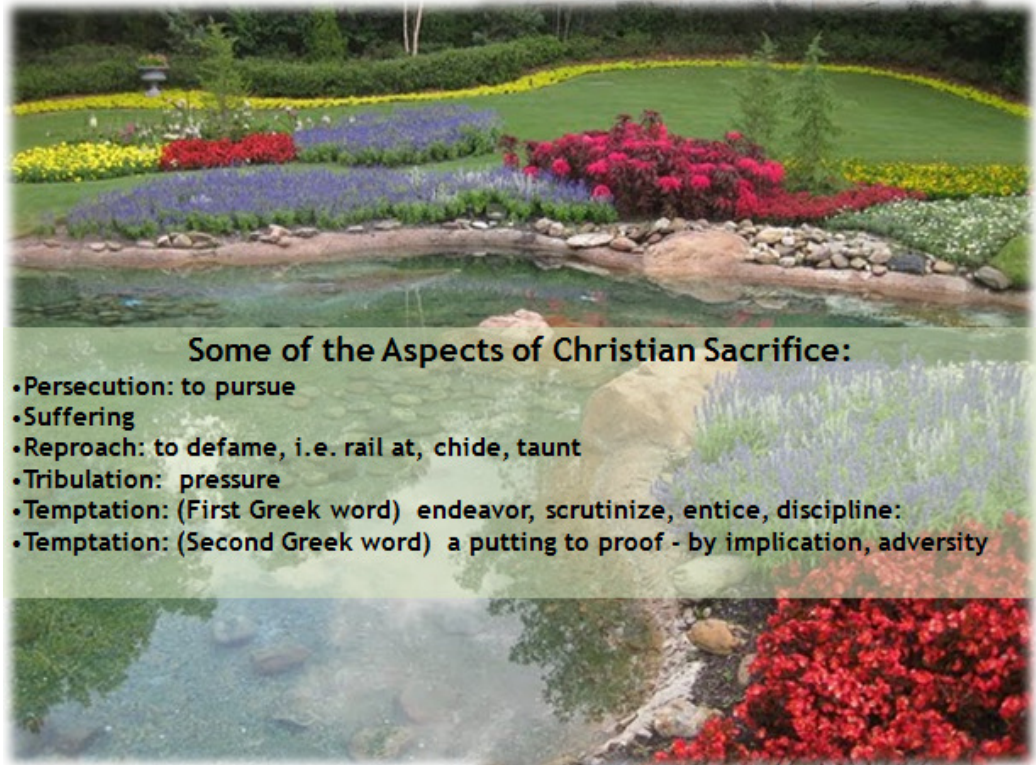
**Philippians 1:20-25:** (NRSV) <sup>20</sup>*It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.* <sup>21</sup>*For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.* <sup>22</sup>*If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer.* <sup>23</sup>*I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;* <sup>24</sup>*but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.* <sup>25</sup>*Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,*

*Dying is gain?* What does that mean? The Apostle was struggling with staying and being fruitful, but he didn't mind dying because he would be with Christ.

Intro - Why do intelligent people still believe in religion, [anubis2814, youtube.com](#)

- *Why is it so easy to idealize war, revolution and self-sacrifice to religion? Self-sacrifice seems like a self-defeating evolutionary mechanism.*
- *Creationists assume self-sacrifice must be from Jesus and that non-Christians don't have it.*
- *It really has a very useful evolutionary advantage. In pack animals, the majority of members of your tribe have some relation to you, which means they share in some of the genes. Some of the genes getting passed on is better than none at all. So if one in the tribe can sacrifice themselves for the rest of the tribe, all will benefit genetically.*

He generalizes a lot about Christianity. This gives us a different perspective on what we are saying, but the concept of self-sacrifice was in place long before Jesus. With Christianity, self-sacrifice plays a very specific role. What you sacrifice yourself for is the important thing.



### Some of the Aspects of Christian Sacrifice:

- Persecution: to pursue
- Suffering
- Reproach: to defame, i.e. rail at, chide, taunt
- Tribulation: pressure
- Temptation: (First Greek word) endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline:
- Temptation: (Second Greek word) a putting to proof - by implication, adversity

### To live a life of sacrifice, one must have a picture of the “why” behind it:

2 Timothy 3:12-17: (NRSV) <sup>12</sup>Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. <sup>13</sup>But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Living a Godly life means you may be persecuted in one way or another because you stand for something different. There is work that has to be done. We are told to go to the Scriptures for the reasons "why" what will be required of us.

### To love and serve is one thing, to sacrifice is another:

Mark 10:17-23: (NASB) <sup>17</sup>As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to him and knelt before him, and asked him, Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? <sup>18</sup>And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments, Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. <sup>20</sup>And he said to him, Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up. <sup>21</sup>Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. <sup>22</sup>But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus, looking around, said to his disciples, How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!

This rich man was living a righteous life, but he was not willing to give things up, to sacrifice and follow him. Living a Christian life is more than living a life of integrity. It costs something. Are we willing to pay the price? Does Christian sacrifice come naturally?



Jesus taught many parables that told us what the kingdom of God is like. Really, it is the development of true Christians. In that sense, it is right now in the developmental part. How hard it was for the rich man to let go of the many things he had and live a life of sacrifice. Stewardship is part of this equation. What we have is to be used in God's service; it is dedicated.

### What was Jesus' example of sacrifice?

Matthew 16:24-26: (KJV) <sup>24</sup>Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. <sup>26</sup>For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Jesus is being very specific. First, he says to "deny yourself." What does that mean? Forgoing your own thinking and instead desiring to do God's will, not our own.

Next, he says to "take up your cross." This involves more than just being a good person. It is denying what you would normally do and apply it to following after Jesus, even unto death.

Following him means to reset your priorities from earthly to spiritual. It goes beyond just having integrity. Integrity is just the beginning.



**Sacrifice can be manipulated - Why do intelligent people still believe in religion, [anubis2814, youtube.com](#)**

- *We must honor the people who do and have sacrificed themselves for us; however, now that we have advanced and are much safer and peaceful, there is less need for it, but it is still a driving force.*
- *It is an emotion that can be so easily manipulated. It can make you feel like the sacrifice of someone else means you should do the same - even if a) the person possibly didn't even sacrifice, as in the case of Jesus; or b) the sacrifice could have been prevented through planning and reasoning, also kind of in the case of Jesus.*
- *Sacrifice for the sake of sacrifice means that something is manipulating you.*

Christian sacrifice is about understanding the "why." The "why" of Jesus giving his life in sacrifice was the necessity of payment of a ransom. It had to be done. He was the one to do it. So in order for you and I and the rest of the world to have a resurrection, he had to sacrifice. Careful planning *meant* that he sacrificed.

The Christian life is to be one of dedication and sanctification, or setting apart from worldly things.

1 Samuel 15:22: ...Behold, to obey is better than to sacrifice.

Our sacrifice has to be in conjunction with obedience to the will of God.

Philippians 2:5-11: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming



obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>For this reason also, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This tells us to have the same attitude Jesus did. Jesus "emptied himself" and "humbled himself" in becoming human, then gave that up to the point of suffering and death. That was the required sacrifice to do the will of God and not his own will. Satan regarded himself equal, but there is no comparison - it is sacrifice with humility vs. self-exaltation.

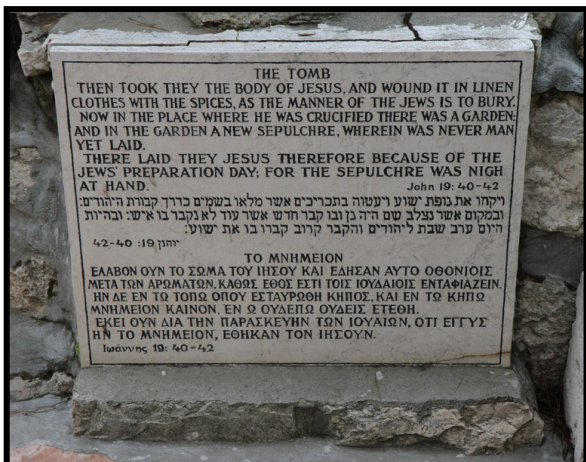
The example of Jesus is clearly a level of sacrifice of which we cannot even scratch the surface.

 **Joab and Abishai: *Suffering and the followers of Christ*, Pastor John Piper, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org), [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)**

- *From 2 Samuel 10:6-14: When surrounded by the enemy, Joab said to his brother, "Brother, be courageous and let us play the man for our God and for the cities of our God and may the Lord do what seems good to him!"*

Joab and Abishai are two of King David's mighty men. They were surrounded and were courageous and willing to give their lives for the cause of God. This is self-sacrifice in action.

Matthew 26:37-46: (NASB) <sup>37</sup>And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with me. <sup>39</sup>And he went a little beyond them, and fell on his face and prayed, saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as You will. <sup>40</sup>And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, So, you men could not keep watch with me for one hour? <sup>41</sup>Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. <sup>42</sup>He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done. <sup>43</sup>Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup>And he left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.



Luke Adds: Luke 22:43-44: (KJV) <sup>43</sup>And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. <sup>44</sup>And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. <sup>45</sup>Then he came to the disciples and said to them, Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays me is at hand!

On the night of his crucifixion, Jesus prayed with great dedication. He didn't want to have to suffer certain things, but was willing to do it because he followed the will of God. He wanted to fulfill the ransom price. True sacrifice is wanting to do those things that are

difficult for the cause of the will of God. Jesus truly sacrificed in a manner that was not only solitary, it was excruciating and costly. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO IT - HE CHOSE TO DO IT!



recap  
recap

- A Christian is drawn by God to deny one's own will to contribute to the functioning of a "body" for the fulfilling of the mission of that body under the headship of Christ.
- To follow - deny yourself - take up your cross - follow Jesus - reset your priorities to the eternal rather than the physical.
- As a man especially at the end of his life, Jesus truly sacrificed in a manner that was not only solitary, it was excruciating and costly. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO IT - HE CHOSE TO DO IT!

### What does Jesus expect from us?

Are we supposed to have no possessions and go from city to city preaching the Gospel like he did?

#### He expects us to love God above ALL!

Mark 12:28-31: (NRSV) <sup>28</sup>One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, Which commandment is the first of all? <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, The first is, Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup>you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. <sup>31</sup>The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

Jesus sets the context in which we should live. First love the Lord, then love your neighbor as yourself. This is the way to set your life in order. We are to aspire to agape love, the selfless love. Love is the way you live, based on choices and actions in life.

Our generation, however, has been focused on "me."

#### The ME Generation, Glenn Beck

- *A generation that only cares about "me, me, me, it's MINE!" A generation we never taught the meaning of merit, a generation that doesn't understand what it means to actually earn something, because we have handed everything to them because of our love and our compassion.*

We are living in a time where the individual becomes the centerpiece of everything, which makes the concept of Christian sacrifice contradictory. The point of Christianity is to live your life for something else, something outside and greater than yourself.

#### Do what Jesus tells us to do!

John 14:15-17: (ASV) <sup>15</sup>If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beholdeth him not, neither knoweth him: ye know him; for he abideth with you, and shall be in you.

Sacrifice is more than having integrity and being courteous. But it is required if we are going to be true Christians. We have to give up our own will and live for a higher cause.

#### Live for a higher cause!

Matthew 5:10-16: (NIV) <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because



great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. <sup>13</sup>You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Jesus wants us to see beyond pain, inconvenience and embarrassment.

Let's compare the message of John the Baptist and Jesus. John told the people to live with integrity according to the Jewish Law. Jesus built upon that base and gave the mission of following him with a sacrificial life.

### **Bask in the privilege of trials and tests!**

**James 1:2-8:** (NASB) <sup>2</sup>Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup>And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. <sup>5</sup>But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup>being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Christian sacrifice puts us in the perspective of realizing that trials and temptations are to teach us how to do the will of God and not our own.

### **Is sacrifice the same for everyone?**

**Romans 12:1-2:** (KJV) <sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**1 Peter 3:8-18:** (NRSV) <sup>8</sup>Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, *sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.* <sup>9</sup>Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup>For those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; <sup>11</sup>let them *turn away from evil and do good*; let them *seek peace and pursue it.* <sup>12</sup>For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. <sup>13</sup>Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. *Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;* <sup>16</sup>*yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear,* so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

How do we not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse? It is in our attitude. Remember, when we forgive somebody, we are releasing ourselves from the control of that experience. We can't release someone from their ultimate consequences that God will take care of. Forgiveness means that I am released from the burden of having to carry the experience.



We often get caught up in bitterness and revenge, but a forgiving attitude is a sacrifice! We should live with sympathy and seek peace. Righteousness is important to focus on before we can really sacrifice to the will of God.

Suffering for the sake of righteousness is a blessing! We have to know why it is the way we are living. What am I doing today to sacrifice my own will and instead do the will of God? What will I do tomorrow? It isn't just a Sunday thing.

Notice the sacrifice being described here is all about living! So, Christian sacrifice is the privilege of living in a way that our own personal will is dying, so it can be replaced by the living will of God through Jesus! God requires us to "die daily," to follow the will of God.

 **Esther: *Suffering and the followers of Christ*, Pastor John Piper, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org), [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)**

- *Esther 4:16: (NASB) Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.*

This is a dramatic example of sacrifice in the Old Testament - Esther willing to put her life on the line for her people. She was in the position to make a difference, and it was a sacrifice.

### Is a Christian's life ONLY about sacrifice?

#### The uniqueness of true Christianity:

1 Peter 2:9-12: (NRSV) <sup>9</sup>But you are *a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, *I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul.* <sup>12</sup>Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

You are different from everybody else as "*aliens and exiles.*" Dying daily means living in Christ, living a higher purpose. This is faith in action. If we don't know why we are sacrificing, we won't do it with our whole heart.

Does sacrifice always hurt? No, think of the sacrifice of praise. Sacrifice may cost us something, but it doesn't have to be painful.

 **Riches: *Suffering and the followers of Christ*, Pastor John Piper, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org), [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)**

- *The world is not going to glorify Christ because they see that Christians are wealthy, healthy and prosperous - a very simple reason why - that's what they live for!*

When there is a focus on material gain and "stuff" within Christianity, we feel it sends the wrong message. We aren't going to bring people to Christ that way, although you may get people into your church that way! That is an earthly attraction, not a spiritual attraction.



## How am I going to live my life for the will of God today?

**Romans 8:14-18:** (NRSV) <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, Abba! Father! <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

We have been adopted by God as children and look at him as our Father. "Abba" in Greek means "daddy." It is an absolute dependency on Him. There is a glory that will be revealed that is greater than anything we can possibly imagine. There is blessing now, however, that comes to us in living for Christ. Walking in a newness of life is a blessed, transformative way to live that gives us internal peace. How valuable is *that* in this world? If we live our lives with God through Christ, we get back that internal peace.

 **Fellowship: *Suffering and the followers of Christ*, Pastor John Piper, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org), [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)**

- *The sweetest fellowship with your savior...that you will ever know is the fellowship of his sufferings...*

## Here is a promise God gives us if we are living our lives in the way of sacrifice:

**1 Corinthians 10:13:** (NASB) *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

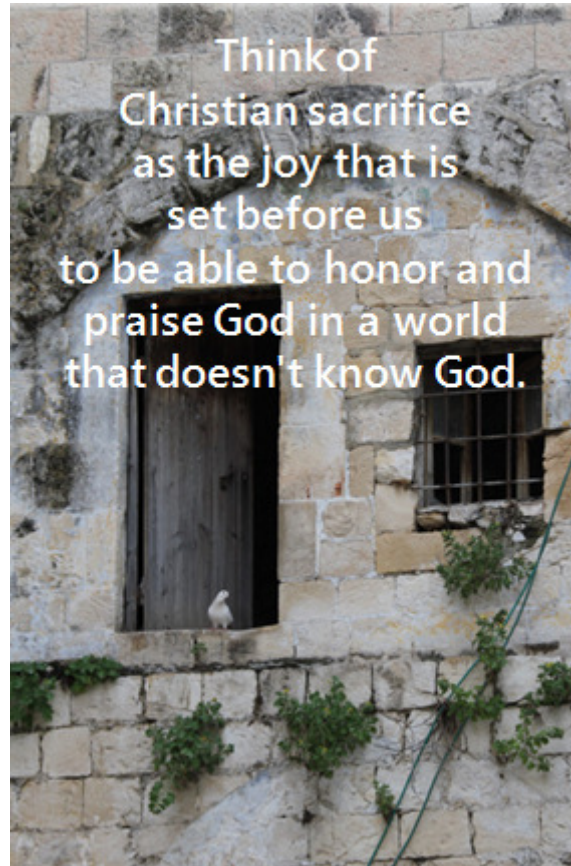
The tradeoffs are putting your physical, earthly will aside to do the will of God. That's hard! It may involve many "resets" each day, because we battle the world, the flesh and the devil. This scripture is one of the positive gains we get from a life of service, which is part of why it is our "*reasonable service*."

Not only will it be too much for us, but God will provide a way to cope and overcome with the circumstance. We need to turn it over to God. This certainly helps with everyday life. We always grow best through trials and difficulties.

The development that comes through trial and difficulty is priceless!

Look in the mirror and ask: What am I doing today to become a better follower?

**Philippians 4:4-8:** (NASB) <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.



*So does Christian sacrifice mean everything?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,  
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...  
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To live a life of sacrifice is no small task, as we have seen throughout our previous discussion. The scriptures are very detailed in their revealing the elements of a sacrificial life. The following are just a few of the ways a life of sacrifice can be accomplished. Remember, none of us is perfect and most of us will not necessarily experience all of these things. The key is appreciating the opportunity - whatever ours might be - to bring glory to God through our daily life!

## Sacrifice

**Romans 8:35-39:** (NRSV) <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered. <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



## Persecution

**Persecution:** Strongs #1377 dioko (dee-o'-ko); a prolonged (and causative) form of a primary verb dio (to flee); to pursue (literally or figuratively); by implication, to persecute: KJV-- ensue, follow (after), given to, (suffer) persecute (-ion), press forward.

John 15:20: (KJV) Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If **they have persecuted** me, **they will also persecute** you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

Matthew 5:10-16: (NIV) <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are **persecuted** because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. <sup>13</sup>You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:44: (KJV) But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and **persecute** you;

2 Timothy 3:12: (KJV) Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution**.

## Suffering

**Suffer:** Strongs #3958 paschō (pā'-skhō); 1) to be affected or have been affected, to feel, have a sensible experience, to undergo...in a bad sense, to suffer sadly, be in a bad plight

**Suffer:** Strongs #4841 sympaschō (sūm-pā'-skhō); to suffer or feel pain together; to suffer evils (troubles, persecutions) in the like manner with another.

Luke 24:26: (KJV) Ought not Christ **to have suffered <3958>** these things, and to enter into his glory?

Hebrews 5:8: (KJV) Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which **he suffered <3958>**;

Romans 8:16-18: (NRSV) <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, **we suffer with <4841>** him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

## Reproach

**Reproach:** Strongs #3679 oneidizo (on-i-did'-zo); to defame, i.e. rail at, chide, taunt: KJV-- cast in teeth, (suffer) reproach, revile, upbraid.

Matthew 5:11: (KJV) Blessed are ye, when men **shall revile** you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.



1 Peter 4:14: (KJV) *If **ye be reproached** for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

## Tribulation

**Tribulation:** Strongs #2347 thlipsis (thlip'-sis); pressure (literally or figuratively): KJV-- afflicted (-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.

John 16:33: (KJV) *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have **tribulation**: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

Acts 14:22: (KJV) *Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much **tribulation** enter into the kingdom of God.*

2 Thessalonians 1:4: (NIV) *Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and **trials** you are enduring.*

Hebrews 10:33: (NIV) *Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and **persecution**; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated.*

## Temptation

**Temptation:** Strongs #3985 peirazo (pi-rad'-zo); to test (objectively), i.e. endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline: KJV-- assay, examine, go about, prove, tempt (-er), try.

1 Corinthians 10:13: (KJV) *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you **to be tempted** above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Galatians 6:1: (KJV) *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also **be tempted**.*

James 1:13-14: (KJV) <sup>13</sup>*Let no man say when **he is tempted, I am tempted** of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: <sup>14</sup>*But every man **is tempted**, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.**

James 1:12: (KJV) *Blessed is the man that **endureth temptation**: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*