

Obedience vs. Sacrifice

Which Will It Be? I Samuel 15:22 ---Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings 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.

We must all examine our motives for serving the Lord. Many of us in the church have been guilty of working for Him motivated only by ourselves because a need existed and we knew we could meet that need. But was it a sacrifice on our part or an act of faith and obedience to the Lord's leading? "We consider what we do in the way of Christian work as service, yet Jesus Christ calls service to be what we are to Him, not what we do for Him." *Oswald Chambers*

The natural man works for God. The spiritual man acts out of faith and obedience which produces works that glorify Him only. James 2:26 - As the body without the Spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Sometimes we operate in a measure of the flesh and a measure of the Spirit which produces compromise and end results that are less fruitful and pleasing to God. Matthew 6:24 - No man can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

Oswald Chambers in his devotional book "My Utmost For His Highest" states: "It is of no value to God to give Him your life for death. He wants you to be a "Living Sacrifice" - to let Him have all your strengths that have been saved and sanctified through Jesus. This is what is acceptable to God." Romans 12:1 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship

How Do We Know Whether Our Works Are Spirit Led or Man Directed? Isaiah 58:11 - Answers this question: "The Lord will guide you always"

How Do I Know If It is God That Is Directing Me? John 14:26,27 ---The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you.---

It is so essential for all of us to have that inner peace that can only come from discerning His voice and living in total obedience to His leading. This is the only way we can get to know Him more intimately in our everyday lives.

"The aim of a spiritually vigorous Saint is: "That I may know Him---." Philippians 3:10. Do I know Him where I am today? If not, I am failing Him. I am not here for self realization, but to know Jesus Christ. In Christian work our initiative and motivation are too often simply the result of realizing that there is work to be done and that we must do it. Yet that is never the attitude of a spiritually vigorous Saint. His aim is to achieve the realization of Jesus Christ in every set of circumstances." *Oswald Chambers*

We must trade our sacrifices for total obedience to God and a desire to know Him more intimately than ever before. It is only then that we can have inner peace and fulfillment which results in God being glorified through our individual and collective lives.