

Generosity Through Sacrifice – We can't outgive God.

Genesis 22

"Generosity begets generosity. When we receive God's generosity to us, we possess the capacity for God's generosity to flow through us. Let us release the joy that generosity brings to our lives!"

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God**, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, **which is your reasonable service**. (Romans 12:1 [NKJV](#))*

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:8-10 [ESV](#))

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. (Hebrews 11:11-12 [ESV](#))

Main Idea: God's generosity to sacrifice for us motivates us to believe in Him . . . to trust Him even in hard commands and even in painful losses.

Five Principles to Grow in Our Sacrifice to God

Principle #1: Our Generous LORD tests our faith. We expect severe trials.

Truth: The tests God sends our way are meant to help us value God Himself more than we value His gifts to us.

Truth: The secret to the obedience of faith is close personal fellowship with this living God. If we wander from our walk with Christ, we will disobey Christ. We keep His commands because we know by experience His generous love.

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet **trials of various kinds**, for you know that **the testing of your faith** produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4 [ESV](#))*

Three Practices to benefit from trials

Practice #1: Consider the LORD to be the primary cause of each trial. Do not fixate upon the secondary causes.

Practice #2: Count the trials as joy. The LORD guarantees that trials will eternally benefit our lives and not diminish our lives.

Practice #3: Reflect on the promises of God in the midst of our trials.

Principle #2: Our Generous LORD makes sure promises to uphold us in trials. We cling to His promises.

*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." **He considered that God** was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (Hebrews 11:17-19 [ESV](#))*

Truth: True spirituality shows itself through surrendered obedience.

Principle #3: Our Generous LORD completely provides for us. We trust Him.

Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. (Jeremiah 32:17 [ESV](#))

Principle #4: Our Generous LORD glorifies His Son. We worship Him!

Shadows of the Redeemer who is to come:

1. The Son is born into the world in a humanly impossible manner.
2. The Father loves the Son with an intense love.
3. The Father and the Son walk together up to the mountain of sacrifice.
4. The location of Mt Moriah is Mt Calvary. The site is divinely directed.
5. A substitutionary sacrifice for sin is necessary for worship.
6. The provision of the Lamb is predicted ahead of time.
7. The fire points to the holiness of God in judgment on sin.
8. The wood of the sacrifice points to the wood of the cross. The wood is the burden that the Son Himself bears to make the sacrifice for us.
9. The Son willingly lays down His life as a sacrifice. John 10.
10. The Father has the knife in His hand poised to strike the Son. Isaiah 53.
11. The Son is raised from the dead. Cf Hebrews 11:19
12. A worthy sacrifice is provided miraculously by God. Cf. John 1:29

Little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2 [ESV](#))

Principle #5: Our Generous LORD rewards faith. We hope in His reward!

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12 [ESV](#))

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18 [ESV](#))