

## *Lesson 25: The 6th Essential of Holy Living: Sacrifice-1*

**Memory Verse:** "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

1 John 4:11

1. How did God demonstrate His sacrifice for us? He \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
  - A. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he \_\_\_\_\_ his only begotten \_\_\_\_\_, that \_\_\_\_\_ believeth in him should not perish, but have \_\_\_\_\_ life."
  - B. Philippians 2:5-8 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of \_\_\_\_\_, thought it not robbery to be \_\_\_\_\_ with God: But made himself of \_\_\_\_\_ reputation, and took upon him the form of a \_\_\_\_\_, and was made in the likeness of \_\_\_\_\_: And being found in fashion as a \_\_\_\_\_, he \_\_\_\_\_ himself, and became obedient unto \_\_\_\_\_, even the death of the \_\_\_\_\_."
  - C. Romans 5:7-8 "For scarcely for a righteous man will one \_\_\_\_\_: yet peradventure for a \_\_\_\_\_ man some would even dare to die. But \_\_\_\_\_ commendeth his \_\_\_\_\_ toward us, in that, while we were yet \_\_\_\_\_, Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us."

**Note:** "We are Christ's witnesses, and we are **not to allow** worldly interests and plans to **absorb our time and attention**. There are **higher interests** at stake. 'Seek ye **first** the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.' Matthew 6:33. Christ gave Himself **willingly** and **cheerfully** to the carrying out of the will of God. He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. In view of all that He has done, **should we feel it a hardship to deny self**? Shall we draw back from being partakers of Christ's sufferings? His death ought to stir every fiber of our beings, making us **willing to consecrate to His work all that we have and are**. As we think of all that He has done for us, **our hearts should be filled with gratitude and love**, and we should **renounce all selfishness**. What duty could the heart refuse to perform under the constraining influence of the love of Christ?" 9T 53.4

"**The perception of God's love works the renunciation of selfishness.**" MB 105.1

2. What does He ask us to do in return?

- A. 1 John 4:11 "Beloved, if God so \_\_\_\_\_ us, we ought also to \_\_\_\_\_ one another."
- B. Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All \_\_\_\_\_ is given unto me in heaven and in earth. \_\_\_\_\_ ye therefore, and \_\_\_\_\_ all nations, baptizing them in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and of the \_\_\_\_\_, and of the Holy \_\_\_\_\_: Teaching them to observe \_\_\_\_\_ things whatsoever I have \_\_\_\_\_ you: and, lo, I am with you \_\_\_\_\_, even unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. Amen."

**Note:** "'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16:15), is Christ's command to His followers. Not that all are called to be ministers or missionaries in the ordinary sense of the term; but **all may be workers with Him** in giving the 'glad tidings' to their fellow men. To **all**, great or small, learned or ignorant, old or young, the command is given." Ed 264.1

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"In view of this command, can we educate our sons and daughters for a life of respectable conventionality, a life professedly Christian, but lacking His **self-sacrifice**, a life on which the verdict of Him who is truth must be, 'I know you not'?" Ed 264.2

"Thousands are doing this. **They think to secure for their children the benefits of the gospel while they deny its spirit.** But **this cannot be.** Those who reject the privilege of fellowship with Christ in **service**, reject the **only** training that imparts a fitness for participation with Him in His **glory**. They reject the **training** that in this life gives **strength** and **nobility** of character. Many a father and mother, denying their children to the cross of Christ, have learned too late that they were **thus giving them over to the enemy of God and man.** They **sealed their ruin**, not alone for the future but for the present life. Temptation overcame them. They grew up a curse to the world, a grief and shame to those who gave them being." Ed 264.3

3. How do we enter into covenant relation with God? Psalm 50:5 "Gather my \_\_\_\_\_ together unto me; those that have made a \_\_\_\_\_ with me by \_\_\_\_\_."

**Note: God will not work a miracle of grace to make you unselfish apart from the operation of His plan,** which He designed to accomplish this work. Will you accept His plan? It is one of the rounds in the ladder toward heaven. **We make our covenant with God by sacrifice.**

"Shall we not, by self-denial, do all that we can to advance God's enterprise of mercy? Can we behold the divine condescension, the suffering endured by the Son of God, without **being filled with a desire to be allowed to sacrifice something for Him?** Is it not a **high honor** to be allowed to co-operate with Him? He left His heavenly home to seek for us. Shall we not become His undershepherds, to seek for the lost and straying? **Shall we not reveal in our lives His divine tenderness and compassion?** 9T 54.1

"The Lord desires His people to be **thoughtful** and **care-taking**. He desires them to **practice economy in everything.** If the workers in the mission fields could have the means that is used in expensive furnishings and in personal adornment, the triumphs of the cross of Christ would be greatly extended. 9T 54.2

"Not all can make large offerings, not all can do great works, magnificent deeds; **but all can practice self-denial, all can reveal the unselfishness of the Saviour.** Some can bring large gifts to the Lord's treasury; others can bring only mites; but every gift brought in sincerity is accepted by the Lord. 9T 54.3

"We plead for the money that is spent on **needless things.** My brethren and sisters, **waste not your money in purchasing unnecessary things.** You may think these little sums do not amount to much, but **many littles will make a great whole.** Cut off every extravagant expenditure. **Indulge in nothing that is simply for display.** Your money means the salvation of souls. Let there be systematic giving on the part of all. Some may be unable to give a large sum, but all can lay aside each week something for the Master. **Let the children act their part.** Let parents teach their children to save their pennies to give to the Lord. **The gospel ministry is to be supported by self-denial and sacrifice.** Through the self-denying efforts of God's people others will be brought into the faith, and these in turn will help to increase the offerings made for the carrying forward of the Lord's work. 9T 55.1

"**Unmistakable evidences point to the nearness of the end.** The way must be prepared for the coming of the Prince of Peace. Let not our church members complain because they are so often called upon to give. What is it that makes the frequent calls a necessity? Is it not the rapid increase of missionary enterprises? Shall we, by refusing to give, retard the growth of these enterprises? **Shall we**

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**forget that we are laborers together with God?** From every church, prayers should ascend to God for an increase of devotion and liberality. My brethren and sisters, do not plead for retrenchment in evangelical work. So long as there are souls to save, our interest in the work of soulsaving is to know no abating. The church cannot abridge her task without denying her Master. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, **but all can give of their means for the carrying forward of foreign missions.**" 9T 55.2

4. What is God's plan for supporting His work?

A. In the Old Testament God said in Leviticus 27:30,32 "And all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is \_\_\_\_\_ unto the Lord." "And concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be holy unto the Lord."

B. In the New Testament this principle is to continue. 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 says: "Do ye not know that they which minister about \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_ of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the \_\_\_\_\_ ordained that they which \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel should \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel."

**Note:** "Every good thing of earth was placed here by the bountiful hand of God as **an expression of His love to man.** The poor are His, and the cause of religion is His. He has placed means in the hands of men, that His divine gifts may flow through human channels in doing the work appointed us in saving our fellow men. **Everyone** has his appointed work in the great field; and yet none should receive the idea that God is dependent upon man. He could speak the word, and every son of poverty would be made rich. In a moment of time He could heal the human race of all their diseases. He might dispense with ministers altogether and make angels the ambassadors of His truth. He might have written the truth upon the firmament, or imprinted it upon the leaves of the trees and upon the flowers of the field; or He might with an audible voice have proclaimed it from heaven. **But the all-wise God did not choose any of these ways.** He knew that man must have something to do in order that life might be a blessing to him. The gold and silver are the Lord's, and He could rain them from heaven if He chose; **but instead of this He has made man His steward, entrusting him with means, not to be hoarded, but to be used in benefiting others.** He thus makes man the medium through which to distribute His blessings on earth. **God planned the system of beneficence in order that man might become, like his Creator, benevolent and unselfish in character,** and finally be a partaker with Him of the eternal, glorious reward." 4T 472.4

"Those who are **truly converted** will regard themselves as God's almoners and will dispense, for the advancement of the work, the means He has placed in their hands. If Christ's words were obeyed, there would be sufficient means in His treasury for the needs of His cause. He has entrusted to men and women an abundance of means for the carrying forward of His plan of mercy and benevolence. He bids His stewards of means invest their money in the work of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and preaching the gospel to the poor. **Perfection of character cannot possibly be attained without self-sacrifice.**" 9T 53.2

"**Never was there a more important time in the history of our work than the present.** The message of the third chapter of Malachi comes to us, holding up before us the need of honesty in our relations to the Lord and His work. ... The means entrusted to you for the advancement of the Lord's work should be used in sending the gospel to all parts of the world." 9T 53.3

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5. What should be done with the tithe? Numbers 18:21 "And, behold, I have given the children of \_\_\_\_\_ all the \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel for an inheritance, for their \_\_\_\_\_ which they serve, even the service of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the congregation." The Levites were to serve at the \_\_\_\_\_ instead of working in their fields like all the other Israelites. So they were given all the \_\_\_\_\_ of what the Israelites raised in their fields. What were they to do with the tithes that they got? Numbers 18:26-28 "Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the \_\_\_\_\_ which I have given you from them for your \_\_\_\_\_, then ye shall \_\_\_\_\_ up an heave offering of it for the Lord, even a \_\_\_\_\_ part of the tithe." They were to give a \_\_\_\_\_ part of it to the Lord. So even the Levites who would get the \_\_\_\_\_ from the Israelites, would give a \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord. They would give it to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 28)

6. What does God say about people who keep their tithe? Malachi 3:8 "Will a man \_\_\_\_\_ God? Yet ye have \_\_\_\_\_ me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

7. What promise does God have for those who bring their tithe? Malachi 3:10-12 "Bring ye all the \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_, that there may be meat in mine house, and \_\_\_\_\_ me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not \_\_\_\_\_ you the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven, and pour you out a \_\_\_\_\_, that there shall not be room enough to \_\_\_\_\_ it. And I will rebuke the \_\_\_\_\_ for your sakes, and he shall \_\_\_\_\_ destroy the \_\_\_\_\_ of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the \_\_\_\_\_ in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And \_\_\_\_\_ nations shall call you \_\_\_\_\_: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts."

**Note:** "A promise is here given that, if all the tithes are brought into the storehouse, a **blessing from God** will be poured upon the obedient." 3T 394.4

"If all who profess the truth will come up to the claims of God in giving the tenth, which God says is His, **the treasury will be abundantly supplied with means** to carry forward the great work for the salvation of man. 3T 395.1

"**God gives man nine tenths, while He claims one tenth for sacred purposes**, as He has given man six days for his own work and has reserved and set apart the seventh day to Himself. For, **like the Sabbath, a tenth of the increase is sacred**; God has reserved it for Himself. He will carry forward His work upon the earth with the increase of the means that He has entrusted to man." 3T 395.2

"Whenever God's people, in any period of the world, **have cheerfully and willingly carried out His plan** in systematic benevolence and in gifts and offerings, they have realized the standing promise that prosperity should attend all their labors just in proportion as they obeyed His requirements. When they **acknowledged the claims of God** and **complied with His requirements, honoring Him with their substance**, their barns were filled with plenty. But when they robbed God in tithes and in offerings they

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were made to realize that they were not only robbing Him but themselves, for He limited His blessings to them just in proportion as they limited their offerings to Him." 3T 395.4

8. What does Jesus say we need to do to be His disciples?

A. Matthew 16:24-26

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him \_\_\_\_\_ himself, and take up his \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ me. For whosoever will \_\_\_\_\_ his life shall \_\_\_\_\_ it: [eternal life] and whosoever will \_\_\_\_\_ his life for my sake shall \_\_\_\_\_ it. [eternal life] For what is a man \_\_\_\_\_, if he shall \_\_\_\_\_ the whole world, and \_\_\_\_\_ his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his \_\_\_\_\_?"

B. Luke 14:33 "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ that he hath, he \_\_\_\_\_ be my disciple."

**Note:** "You must be in earnest to secure your soul's salvation. You must begin the work of overcoming now. Don't put it off. It will soon be for ever too late, and the lamentation upon every side will be 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended and my soul is not saved.' Let not the opinions of your young companions affect you. **You may think you have a great sacrifice to make**, but to look at the matter in its true light, you have none to make. **You only change bad for good**, sin and evil for righteousness, death for life. **If you cannot give all for heaven, you cannot have it.** Will you give up every idol? **there is one thing that you cannot give up, that is your idol.** That will shut you out of Heaven. RH, July 25, 1854 par. 1

"... Christ was nailed to Calvary's cross, to make a way of escape for you. He for your sakes became poor. He died that you might live. **O What a sacrifice was this!** The tongue of an angel cannot tell the 'matchless depths of a Saviour's love.' **Jesus is your pattern.** He is your example; and if you come short of the true pattern, you will have no excuse. Do not measure yourself by others; but Jesus, Jesus is your pattern. ... RH, July 25, 1854 par. 2

"Be a living devoted Christian. ... God is purifying unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. This people are peculiar. They do not dress or act like the world. Their conversation is in Heaven. Shake off every shackle, and take hold for the salvation of your own soul, and that of your brothers, sisters, and friends around you. They look to you for example. Lead them right. Try to save their souls. Love, honor and respect your parents; and **in the end you will find you have sacrificed nothing; for you will have a rich and glorious reward.**" RH, July 25, 1854 par. 3

"The Lord designed to bring man into **close relationship with Himself** and into sympathy and love with his fellow men by placing upon him responsibilities in deeds that would **counteract selfishness** and **strengthen his love for God and man.** The plan of system in benevolence God designed for the good of man, who is inclined to be selfish and to close his heart to generous deeds. The Lord requires gifts to be made at stated times, being so arranged that **giving will become habit** and benevolence be felt to be a Christian duty. The heart, opened by one gift, is not to have time to become selfishly cold and to close before the next is bestowed. **The stream is to be continually flowing, thus keeping open the channel by acts of benevolence.**" 3T 393.2