

Keys of Kingdom Power #4
SACRIFICE

Romans 12 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. NLT

The sacrifice that God is seeking is that of a person that denies themselves for his purposes.

I. The Sacrifice of FASTING- Denying the body (the flesh)

A. Fasting brings added power for victory over an intrusion of the enemy.

Jehoshaphat receives word of an enemy attack that is larger than his army. He calls a fast. His prayer is recorded.

2Chr. ¹² O our God, won't you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help."

A prophet while people are praying and fasting receives a word from God.

2Chr. 20 ¹⁴ the Spirit of the Lord came upon one of the men standing there. His name was Jahaziel son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite who was a descendant of Asaph.

¹⁵ He said, **"Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the Lord says:** Do not be afraid! Don't be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow, march out against them. You will find them coming up through the ascent of Ziz at the end of the valley that opens into the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the Lord's victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and

Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!”

B. Fasting brings added power over indwelling spirits or strongholds.

Mat. 17 ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

²⁰ So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ However, **this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.**” NKJ

Isa. 58 confirms how the fast gives us power over the enemy.

⁶ “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, **to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?** NIV

II. The Sacrifice of GIVING- Denying the soul-

It is not what “I WANT” but what “HE WANTS” that matters.

The soul is that part of us that presses our emotions and senses to be totally selfish. Jesus reveals to us that our desires are revealed by what we do with our money.

Matthew 6 ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. NLT

A. Giving of our finances is a reflection of a God like nature.

The **Macedonian churches** gave out of their **poverty**.

2Co. 8 ² Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

B. Giving of our finances is a giving of ourselves.

Ill. Jesus became poor that we might be rich.

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though **he was rich**, yet for your sakes **he became poor**, so that **you through his poverty might become rich.** NIV

Jesus owned it all. He is God. Yet he humbled himself and became a servant. He emptied himself so that we might become spiritually rich.

C. Paul encourages us to excel in giving.

⁷ But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us see that you also **excel in this grace of giving.** NIV

How does giving give us kingdom power?

2Co. 8 ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this **service to the saints.**

Not only does giving serve the needs of the saints or ministry but it also **releases us to the miraculous provision of God.**

Our dependency is not on man but the power of God.

III. The Sacrifice of SERVING.- Denying the our selves from being spiritually served to serving others!

John 13 ¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing?” ¹³ You

call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. NLT

- A. We are **not greater than our master**- Jesus served
- B. The messenger is not more important than the one who sent the message.

If we follow His example..

- C. **Our reward is his blessing** if we follow his example.

Phi. 2 Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. ³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. **Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.** ⁴ **Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.** ⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. NLT

In humble obedience doing what he asks, His power will flow through us to others.