

## SACRIFICES WHICH PLEASE THE LORD

1. EFFORTS WITH NO FRUIT, OR WHEN GOD DOESN=T SEEM TO RESPOND.
  1. ***False labor pains.*** (Isa 26:18 KJV) We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.
  2. ***Wrong motives for fasting.*** (Isa 58:3 KJV) Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. (Isa 58:4 KJV) Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.
  
2. WE WANT GOD TO RECEIVE OUR OFFERINGS.
  1. ***God will not receive just any sacrifice***--it must be pleasing to Him.
    1. **Cain and Abel.** (Heb 11:4 KJV) By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.
    2. **Ananias and Sapphira.**
  2. ***What offerings can I offer you?***
    1. (Psa 51:16 KJV) For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. (Psa 51:17 KJV) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.
    2. (Micah 6:6 KJV) Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? (Micah 6:7 KJV) Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? (Micah 6:8 KJV) He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
    3. (Psa 4:5 KJV) Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.
    4. (Psa 27:6 KJV) And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.
  3. ***Leave your gift at the altar.*** (Mat 5:23 KJV) Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; (Mat 5:24 KJV) Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.
    1. Spirit of love, forgiveness, acceptance, and humility.
    2. Being reconciled to our brothers.
      1. ***If taken in a fault.*** (Gal 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.

2. *If trespass against us.* (Mat 18:15 KJV) Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. (Mat 18:16 KJV) But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. (Mat 18:17 KJV) And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican. (Mat 18:18 KJV) Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Mat 18:19 KJV) Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. (Mat 18:20 KJV) For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

4. *Offering that which costs; true sacrifices.* (2 Sam 24:24 KJV) And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

### 3. SOLOMON=S PLEA TO THE LORD FOR THE PEOPLE.

#### 1. *Solomon=s prayer.*

1. If heaven be shut up. (2 Chr 6:26 KJV) When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them; (2 Chr 6:27 KJV) Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance.
2. If there be dearth. (2 Chr 6:28 KJV) If there be dearth in the land, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting, or mildew, locusts, or caterpillars; if their enemies besiege them in the cities of their land; whatsoever sore or whatsoever sickness there be: (2 Chr 6:29 KJV) Then what prayer or what supplication soever shall be made of any man, or of all thy people Israel, when every one shall know his own sore and his own grief, and shall spread forth his hands in this house: (2 Chr 6:30 KJV) Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men:)
3. When we go to war. (2 Chr 6:34 KJV) If thy people go out to war against their enemies by the way that thou shalt send them, and they pray unto thee toward this city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have

- built for thy name; (2 Chr 6:35 KJV)
4. Then hear thou from the heavens their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.
2. ***God's response.***
    1. God receives Solomon's sacrifice.
      1. Fire comes down and consumes the sacrifices.
      2. The glory of the Lord filled the house.
      3. People bowed and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.
      4. The king and the people offer more sacrifices.
        - (1) 22,000 oxen.
        - (2) 120,000 sheep.
    2. Everyone finds his place.
      1. Priests waited on their offices; Levites filled their ministry of music.
      2. Spirit of unity and agreement.
      3. Everyone had a mind to work. (Neh 4:6 KJV) So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.
  3. ***God's promise to His people.*** (2 Chr 7:14 KJV)
    1. Four conditions on our part.
      1. Humble ourselves.
      2. Pray.
      3. Seek the face of God.
      4. Turn from our wicked ways.
    2. Three things God will do.
      1. He will hear from heaven.
      2. He will forgive our sins.
      3. He will heal our land.
4. THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER.
    1. ***We need God.***
    2. ***We need one another.***
    3. ***Attributes of heart God is looking for.***
      1. Pure motives of heart; genuineness; sincerity.
      2. Humility.
        1. Broken and contrite heart before the Lord.
        2. Humbling ourselves before one another.
        3. Micah - Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God. @
      3. Repentance and forgiveness.
        1. Spirit of love, forgiveness, acceptance, humility.
        2. Reconciliation.
    4. ***God is looking for integrity of heart.***
    5. ***If my people...***(2 Chr 7:14 KJV) If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked

ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.