

Notes on Sacrifice

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A Canadian Family member



Photo circa 1965

Sacrifice means the act of giving something for the sake of something else. The word sacrifice also brings to mind connotations of difficulties, hardships and certain reluctant feelings. It is around this "act of giving" that this condition in human nature seems to be centered. Throughout history great religious teachers have endeavored to guide and advise us as to the true nature of sacrifice so it seems that sacrifice, the act of giving something for the sake of something else, has been the concern of God as well a man.

In seeking to understand the true nature of sacrifice sever questions are raised and must be answered. Firstly; why is necessary to sacrifice in the first place? Secondly, what does benefit man, and accomplish for God in light of the restoration of the world? I will seek to answer some of these questions be incorporating the Divine Principle with my own experience.

The necessity of sacrifice arises out of the need to prop oneself away from and beyond self-centeredness and towards the Heart of God. The blame for the fall of man rests not only on Satan, but also partly on man. Adam and Eve are responsible because they responded willingly and co-operated with Satan. They did not use the power that they had been given by God to reject Satan, instead they disobeyed the commandment and indulged in a relationship of unnatural love with Satan outside of the perfect union of love with God. By indulging in this unprincipled relationship the first couple closed the world in on themselves and cut off the flow of universal love and energy between the subject and object. Eve was willing to sacrifice Adam, creation, Lucifer's proper position, and the whole cosmic plan of God in order to fulfill and gratify her own desires. Lucifer was willing to sacrifice Eve, Adam, creation and the whole providential Divine plan for the same end. It is also important to note that Eve was addressed individually by Lucifer, apart from Adam.

"And the serpent said unto the woman, you shall not die; for God knows that in the day that you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you shall be as God knowing good and evil."

There the temptation and false promise of Satan was confined and narrowed down to Eve alone; it does not contain a promise of blessing to all of mankind. In this way Satan broke down the communication between man and God on all levels just as he breaks down the communication between us today.

So Satan, Adam and Eve sacrificed the will of the whole purpose of the creation in order to fulfill their own individual desires. From this develops the tendency to isolate and live apart from others following our own individual will without any desire to connect ourselves to the whole.

Because of the conditions made by the fall God then had to allow Satan the right to control man. Man

became Satan's child and God could not take back this child from Satan without making some bargain with Satan. This is why in several places in the Bible we see God and Satan arguing over the right to man. The first chapter of the Book of Job is a good example. Satan says:

"Put forth thy hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said to Satan: "Behold all that he has is in your power; only upon himself put forth not your hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord."
Job 1:12-13.

In order for man then to propel himself away from and beyond self-centeredness and out of the hands of Satan, God has to find men willing to go in the opposite direction from fallen man. To do this there must be no thought for one's own will and desires but only a strong desire to center body and heart on God. When man fell his own life became wretched and meaningless: (Gen: 16-19) and he could not help but suffer remorse and fill the vacuum in his heart with his own tears. Man throughout history had to grope for meaning often accepting lies and falsehood in place of the attainment of eternal life and fulfillment. So a man must come who is moved to cry tears for the broken heart of God and his own brother in the satanic world. He must put everything else before himself. To attain this sacrificial attitude is just like rowing the boat against the tide, since we must turn ourselves around and row in the opposite direction from what the world is going. We are pressing against centuries of training in the fallen Satanic world in which we have been taught to seek our own desires first.

Our Master says that the history of evil has been for man to sacrifice others to achieve his own ends. This is what we must reverse. Sacrifice is a movement in the opposite direction, it enables us to retrace our steps and regain our true relationship with God and with each other. Why? Because through sacrifice we give up our own individual desire for the sake of something of greater value to God and fellow man. The very movement of going in the opposite direction within our own life seems to progress from outer to inner. Since the fall occurred from inner to outer, God must restore in the opposite direction. First God will ask us to leave behind attachment to the material environment and separate ourselves from the Satanic world. Then if we are to continue to follow the path that leads to God's heart, He will encourage us to sacrifice our time and effort. Then it might even come down to the ones we love; wife, children and lovers. During this painful process Satan might whisper in your ear that you are losing everything and that God is going to leave you with nothing.

Just think of the anguish that filled the heart of Abraham when God told him that he must sacrifice his only son. Imagine how Abraham loved him. All his life he had longed for a son and then unexpectedly God blessed Abraham and Sarah with Isaac.

Now he was required by God to sacrifice him. Abraham was willing to do this because of his love and trust for God. Abraham, by giving up something was able to gain something not of equal value, but of greater value to the whole of mankind and God he laid the foundation of Faith to accomplish the restoration.

This process of turning around through making the condition of sacrifice affects us most in the realm of our own feelings. We hold on to things, just like the man who was afraid to let go of the branch and fall safely, to the ground. We are afraid that our self-image will be damaged or to admit that the values we had prove to be incorrect in the light of Principle. In the Family we are given many opportunities by God to restore our hearts to Him through the condition of sacrifice.

Through sacrifice we can take that different direction that is necessary to create the heavenly order. Taking the different direction begins on the individual level and expands to the family and international level. In this way God is teaching us not to be confined within our self, but to give out by making the lesser sacrifice of today in order to gain the greater goal tomorrow, thus allowing once more the love and energy of God to flow. By the sacrifice of one man, Jesus, the way was open for man to achieve spiritual salvation, without this there would be no Christianity.

Our Master has come on that foundation of Jesus, his showing us how we can be a brother to Jesus and have the same and even greater willingness to make that necessary sacrifice. And what can one million people with this attitude accomplish! Why, they will move the axis of this world, they will turn this Satanic world upside down and create the Heavenly order of God!

Our Master says that the teaching of sacrifice is God's teaching. I am for you, we are for the nation, the nation is for the world, the world is for God. The history of goodness is the sacrifice of man, of himself, to achieve the greater purpose for others. The History of evil is the sacrifice of others to protect the individual desire. To reverse and restore, Father is sacrificing those few that love and understand Him, for the millions that don't, so that they can share in His love. The process of sacrifice is the material of the pathway that will lead everyone to become one with God.