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# A SACRIFICED LIFE

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CHARACTER

## Overview:

The life of a true disciple of Christ is marked by sacrifice before God. A sacrificed life is a lifestyle consistent with an eternal perspective and higher calling that you have received. This life of sacrifice stems from a love for God and a heart that is fully given to the Lord and His work.

## Outline:

### I. What is a sacrificed life?

- A. The O.T. sacrifice (Leviticus)
- B. Christ's ultimate sacrifice (Hebrews 10, Romans 3:23-25, Eph. 5:1-2)
- C. Our living sacrifice (Romans 12:1)
- D. Paul's example & teaching
  - 1. Drink offering poured out (2 Tim. 4:6)
  - 2. A way of life to follow (1 Cor. 4:17)
  - 3. Bond-servant of Christ (Romans 1:1)
  - 4. Free from sin, slave to God (Rom. 6:22)
- E. Exemplified in the lives of: C.T. Studd, Hudson Taylor, Jim Elliot, George Mueller, Amy Carmichael, etc.

### II. Following Jesus comes at a cost.

- A. The cost of discipleship (Luke 9:62)
- B. Come, follow me (Matthew 4:19-20)
- C. The rich young man (Mark 10:21)
- D. Take up your cross (Luke 9:23-25)
  - 1. Deny yourself
  - 2. Lose your life, to save it
- E. Ex: Career; possessions; finances; hobbies

### III. Vision results in sacrifice

- A. Paul's vision (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
  - 1. Run to win the prize
  - 2. "Beat my body to make it my slave"
  - 3. Ex. Top athletes
- B. Live out our commission (Matt. 28:19-20)

### IV. The heart of a sacrificed life

- A. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit (Psalm 51:16-17)
- B. In view of God's mercy (Romans 12:1)
  - 1. A right view of yourself (Galatians 2:20)

- C. Not needing to be seen (Matthew 6:1-6)
- D. Practice contentment (1 Tim. 6:6-17)

### V. Power to live sacrificed life

- A. It is God given power (Acts 1:8)
  - 1. We've been given all we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)
  - 2. "Only let us hold true to what we have attained." (Philippians 3:16)
- B. Rely on His strength (Isaiah 41:10b)
  - 1. Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength (Isaiah 40:31)
  - 2. Strength in weakness (2 Cor. 12:10)
- C. Have an eternal perspective (Col. 3:1-4)
  - 1. Store up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21)
  - 2. Receive hundredfold (Mark 10:28-31)
  - 3. Bread of Life (John 6:27;35)
  - 4. Living Water (John 7:37-38)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Discussion Questions:

- 1. What is holding you back from sacrificing more of yourself for Jesus?
- 2. What is one thing God is asking you to sacrifice for Him?
- 3. What motivates you most to live sacrificially?

### Supporting Material:

#### Verses:

**Hebrews 10:12-14** "But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God... <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."

**Romans 3:24-25a** "and {we} are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith."

**Romans 12:1** "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

**2 Timothy 4:6** "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come."

**1 Corinthians 4:17** "That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church."

**Romans 1:1** "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,"

**Romans 6:22** "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life."

**Luke 9:62** "Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

**Matthew 4:19-20** "And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him."

**Mark 10:21** "And Jesus... said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

**Luke 9:23-25** "And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. <sup>25</sup>For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27** "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

**Psalms 51:16-17** "For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. <sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

**Galatians 2:20a** "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."

**Matthew 6:3-4** "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

**1 Timothy 6:6-8** "But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content."

**Acts 1:8** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses... to the end of the earth."

**2 Peter 1:3** "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness..."

**Isaiah 41:10b** "I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

**Isaiah 40:31** "but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

**2 Corinthians 12:10** "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

**Colossians 3:1-3** "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above... <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

**Mark 10:28-30** "See, we have left everything and followed you." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time..."

#### Quotes:

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." -Jim Elliot

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." -C.T. Studd

"Christ says, "Give me all. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want you. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good." -C.S. Lewis

#### Resources:

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 1952, Chapters: Is Christianity Hard or Easy?, Counting the Cost

John Piper, [desiringgod.org](http://desiringgod.org)  
"Present Your Bodies As a Living Sacrifice to God" 2004

**Overview:**

Prayer is any spiritual communion with God including confession, petition, adoration, praise and thanksgiving. In Luke 11:1 it is recorded that: "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples. "The question "How to pray?" will be addressed in this section.

**Outline:****I. Why?**

## A. Commune with God

Matt. 6:6 "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

## B. Strengthen the soul

Mark 14:38 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

## C. Humbling

2 Chr. 7:14 "if my people, who are called by my name, will 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."

## D. Expresses Faith

John 15:7 "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."

## E. Our examples:

## 1. Jesus

Luke 6:12 "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God."

## 2. Paul

Eph.1:18 "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened..."

See other side for "Paul on Prayer" notes

**II. When?**

## A. All the time

Eph. 6:18 "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

## B. Before QT

1. Mind is clear
2. Have a consistent time frame

## C. Before meetings

## D. When need direction/wisdom

## E. Mealtime

Matt. 26:26 "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks,"

## F. Before bed

**III. Where?**

## A. Find a private place

Home, outside, lounge, restaurant, etc.

Mark 1:35 "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."

## B. A place where you can pray out loud

Prayer walks, hikes, etc.

## C. A place with minimized distractions

**IV. What (to pray for)?**

## A. Others

See Paul's prayers

## B. Yourself

## C. Family

## D. Church

## E. Special needs

## F. Wisdom, knowledge, etc.

## G. Through Jesus name

Jude 25 "...to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages; now and forevermore! Amen."

**V. How?**

## A. Have a prayer list

3X5 note cards  
Bible bookmarks  
Prayer notebook

## B. With others

Spouse, friends, disciples  
People in your Small Group

## C. On Knees

Acts 9:40 "Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed."

## D. On Face

Matt.26:39 "Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

**Conclusion:**

Prayer is a necessary but often overlooked discipline of the Christian life. For the Christian who wants to make progress in their spiritual walk, consistent times of prayer will be a regular part of life.

## Supporting Material:

### Verses:

#### Paul on Prayer:

**Rom. 1:9** "God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you <sup>10</sup> in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you."

**Rom. 8:26** "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

**Rom. 15:30** "I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. <sup>31</sup> Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there."

**Rom. 10:1** "Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup> For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge."

**2 Cor. 13:7** "Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. <sup>8</sup> For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. <sup>9</sup> We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong: and our prayer is for your perfection."

**Eph. 1:15** "For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength."

**Eph. 3:16** "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

**Eph. 6:18** "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel."

**Phil 1:3** "I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you. I always pray with joy."

**Phil. 1:9** "And this is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ."

**Phil. 4:6** "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

**Col. 1:9** "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. <sup>10</sup> And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."

**Col. 4:2** "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful <sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."

**Col. 4:12** "Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured."

**1 Thes. 1:2** "We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you."

**1 Thes. 3:9** "How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith."

**1 Thes. 5:16** "Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> pray continually; <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

**2 Thes. 1:11** "With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith."

**2 Thes. 3:1** "Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you, <sup>2</sup> And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith."

**1 Tim. 2:1** "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness, <sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

**1 Tim. 2:8** "I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing."

**Phlm. 4** "I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. <sup>6</sup> I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."

**Heb. 13:18** "Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. <sup>19</sup> I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon. <sup>20</sup> May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant, brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

### Quotes:

"Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees."  
- Corrie Ten Boom

"Every Christian needs a half hour of prayer each day, except when he is busy. Then he needs an hour."  
- Saint Francis of Sales

"When we cannot pray as we would, it is good to pray as we can."  
- C.H. Spurgeon

"Not to pray because you do not feel fit to pray is like saying, 'I will not take medicine because I am too ill.'" Pray for prayer: pray yourself, by the Spirit's assistance, into a praying frame."  
- C.H. Spurgeon

### References:

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Zondervan Publishing House, 1962

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Intervarsity Press, 1964

Charles C. Ryrie - New American Standard Bible (preface). "How to Use This Study Bible". The Moody Bible Institute, 1976, 1978, page vi

George Muller - Answers to Prayer  
Trinity Press, 2011

Elizabeth George - The Heart of a Woman Who Prays  
Harvest House Publishers, 2012

John MacArthur - A Year of Prayer  
Harvest House Publishers, 2014

### Discussion Questions:

How do you practice Paul's admonition in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "Pray without ceasing"?

How consistent are you in your prayer times? Can you become more disciplined in this area?

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# The Revolutionary Local Church — Discipleship Part 4

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## Overview:

The Local Church is a revolution — not in rebellion but in kindness. Her mission ends not with the taking of life, but with the giving of life and peace to all who come to Jesus Christ!

## Outline:

### I. The World Is a mess and it needs a revolution

A. Merriam Webster dictionary- a Revolution is defined as:

: a sudden, radical, or complete change

: a fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualizing something : a change of paradigm <the Copernican *revolution*>

B. A revolution is something that is so new and so different that it radically changes the backdrop of what's around us!

### II. The Local Church is Revolutionary

A. The **Local Church is revolutionary in its outreach**

**Matthew 9:12**

“But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”

B. The **local Church is revolutionary in its Love**

**John 13:34-35**

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

C. The **local Church is revolutionary in its worship**

**Matthew 22:37-38**

“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.”

D. The **local Church is revolutionary in its power to change lives**

**Acts 9**

E. The **local Church is revolutionary in its responsibility**

**Ephesians 4:16**

“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

F. The **local Church is revolutionary in its:**

- Community
- Humility
- Love for people
- Transparency
- Faithfulness
- Grace
- Purpose
- Doctrine
- Service- to each other, the community, in the world
- Giving of your life, time and money

G. The **local Church is revolutionary in its message of hope**

**1 Corinthians 2:9**

“But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.’”

### III. People are consumed by what they Love.

“Learn to love the Church! Your devotion to Christ is measured by your devotion to His body! If you are not devoted to the body - you do not love the head.

Nothing on earth has greater potential to change lives and carry out His kingdom work in your community, than your local church. There's nothing like the local church when it's working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. No other organization on earth is like the church. Nothing even comes close.”

-Bill Hybels

### Conclusion

*If you know* that THE GREATEST REVOLUTION on earth is the Local Church, and *if you know* that you are following the Greatest revolutionary who ever lived in Jesus Christ, and *if you know* THAT the method of expanding this revolution is through the Local Church: “Are you ready for the revolution?”

## Supporting Material:

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### Important Verses:

#### Hebrews 10:24-25

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. The sufficiency of the Scriptures and God's help for counseling."

#### Matthew 9:12

"But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."

#### 1 John 4:19

"We love because he first loved us."

#### 1 John 4:10

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

#### John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

#### Matthew 22:37-38

"And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment."

#### 1 Corinthians 2:9

"But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.'"

#### Acts 1

#### Ephesians 4:16

"He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

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### Quotes:

"When a person becomes a Christian, he doesn't just join a local church because it's a good habit for growing in spiritual maturity. He joins a local church because it's the expression of what Christ has made him—a member of the body of Christ."  
Mark Dever

"Jesus is the hope of the world and the local church is the vehicle of expressing that hope to the world."  
Andy Stanley

"The Christian life is not just our own private affair. If we have been born again into God's family, not only has he become our Father but every other Christian believer in the world, whatever his nation or denomination, has become our brother or sister in Christ. But it is no good supposing that membership of the universal Church of Christ is enough; we must belong to some local branch of it. Every Christian's place is in a local church, sharing in its worship, its fellowship, and its witness."  
John Stott

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### Resources:

The Bible

"I am the church" – Series on TRC website

Discipling- Mark Dever

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### Discussion Question:

"How can you grow in your love for the local church?"