

Words! **Part 9: "Sacrifice!"**

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. Proverbs 25.11

Faith that is an operating system... not a program!

"This is the faith that pleases God: belief in Him that gives substance to the believer while he waits for the things hoped for, the things still unseen!" **Heb 11 (comp)** Faith that sees things that are not yet as though they were; a pictured reality that causes believers to stand for a lifetime! **Heb 11.13,39 2Cor4.18**

Faith as a living dynamic that causes us to stand in the face of challenges, stresses and distractions to our belief until death do we depart... H11.13,39

A faith "like as" the faith of the Son of God – who loved us and gave Himself for us! **Galatians 2.20** A life-style that can cry out, "Father I have glorified You on earth, I have finished the work You gave me, glorify Yourself in me...!" **John 17**

sac·ri·fice (sàk're-fis') noun

1. The act of offering something to a deity in propitiation or homage, especially the ritual slaughter of an animal or a person. 2. Forfeiture of something highly valued for the sake of something/someone considered to have a greater value or claim. 3. Relinquishment of something at less than its presumed value.

"The Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many!" **Matthew 20.28** Without presumption on our part, He relinquished His precious life to save us... and that's the sacrifice we want to mimic!

CAVEAT!

Going to illustrate this concept with a really extreme example... Based on a really good question that I was asked last week... The question that chokes and defeats politicians/pulpiteers every time... I'm not interested in picking a fight but with illustrating a really important point about sacrifice...

CAVEAT²

Saying it again...! Going way out on the ledge to illustrate the concept of lifetime-sacrifice... If you get mad and shut down, coming to church will have been a waste... If you listen to the end you might find some real empowerment for life and it's circumstances.

CAVEAT³ I really mean the first two Caveat's!

On Pulpit Freedom Sunday I talked about the moral issues at stake with this election... *The name of Jesus/prayer in public! The defense of the Biblical definition of marriage! The issue of "shared" infanticide (abortion) brought on by the new Affordable Care Act!*

Afterward asked: "What about abortion in the case of rape?" It was the answer/gave an example!

If there's any clause to the abortion issue it would be "in the case of rape." Who would want to carry a child conceived under such circumstance? Who wouldn't allow the compassion for a woman to be free of such a pregnancy? Wouldn't this be justified? Let me ask, "How big is your God?" And it's a "family" question demanding a family answer!

This is absolutely the worst case scenario I can think of... My little girl, raped, and left with a spark of life inside... Should she be forced by someone's politically conservative viewpoint to carry the child of a rapist for nine months? Reminded everyday *where you've been!* And to what end? If it's about her, the answer is obvious! But is it about her? The baby? More? How big is our God?

BIG ENOUGH? Does He know every living soul from before conception? **Psalm 139.14,15 Is44.24 Ephesians 1.4 Jeremiah 29.11** Does He have “good plans” for every baby born? **Ps71.6 Is44.2 49.1 Gal 1.15** Does every living soul have the potential to become a quickened sprit? **1Cor15.45 John 3.3,6,16**

Does every “quickened” believer have the *model* and *ability* to lay down life for the sake of others?
Jesus/Holy Spirit

If a woman bore a child under those circumstances, dealing with the daily reality of *her choice* we would call her a heroine of faith and sacrifice!

HOW BIG IS OUR GOD?

BIG ENOUGH? To know, have a plan for and support the course of my life being changed/directed by the needs of others? To enable me to ignore others criticism for doing what I believe is right/possible? To keep from taking the “way out” offered by well-intentioned people? To keep me from the temptations to reverse my decisions and go back to a self-focused existence? To trust Him with my future regardless of the beginning? Give me friends with the same capacity?

DO YOU REALIZE WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT PREGNANCE ANYMORE? IS HE BIG ENOUGH? To know, have a plan for and support the course of my life being changed/directed by the needs of others? To enable me to ignore others criticism for doing what I believe is right/possible? To keep from taking the “way out” offered by well-intentioned people? To keep me from the temptations to reverse my decisions and go back to a self-focused existence? To trust Him with my future regardless of the beginning? Give me friends with the same capacity?

“Walk in love as Christ also loved us and gave Himself for us as an offering and sacrifice to God as a sweet smelling scent.” **Eph 5.2**

“I am caught between two things... to be with Christ which is far better *but to continue living is far better for you!*” **Phil 1.23,24**

“I am dead with Christ yet I find myself alive and the life I now live *I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me!*” **Gal 2.20**

We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *for the good works God ordained for us to walk in!*” **Eph 2.10**

HOW BIG IS OUR GOD? HOW MUCH LIKE HIM ARE WE?

SWAIGTDWWIKN?

I will present myself to God as *a living sacrifice* which is my reasonable service! Romans 12.1 Jesus exchanged His earthly life for my spiritual death so that I could live on earth to do God’s will! Anything short of transformation into the image of God’s dear Son is the gap I will strive to fulfill! (*What else do we have to do with a life that belongs to Him?*)

I will not become weary in well doing! I will be found as a faithful steward of God’s love and grace! Gal 6.9,10 1Cor4.2 To do good, great and “exceeding” in daily reality can become wearying... but... “To do good and to partner and share with others I will not forget nor neglect: *for with such sacrifices God is well pleased!*” Hebrews 13.15,16

I will profess this life is not my own and that I profit nothing if I do not live in the love of Christ! 1Cor 13 “I will be a mimic, as His dear child, and I will walk in love, as Christ did us, giving Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling scent.” **E5.1,2** “I will gladly spend and be spent, bearing the weaknesses of others fulfilling the law of Christ!” **2Cor12.15 R15.1-6 Gal 6.1,2**