

LIFE AT ITS BEST: LIFE OF SACRIFICE

Introduction: Four values mentioned most in the Bible

1. Faith _____
2. Hope _____
3. Love _____
4. Giving _____

II Corinthians 8:7 (ph) "You already excel...in faith, knowledge, enthusiasm and love. Now add generosity to your virtues."

FIVE BENEFITS OF LEARNING TO SACRIFICE

1. MAKES ME MORE _____.

James 1:5 (RSV) "God give to all generously and ungrudgingly."

- You can _____ without loving but you cannot love without _____.

I Chronicles 29:14 (LB) [At dedication of the temple] "Everything we have has come from You, Lord, and we can only give You what is Yours already.."

- All the _____ belongs to God!

2. DRAWS ME _____ TO GOD.

Matthew 6:21 (NCV) "Your heart will be wherever you treasure is."

- Giving sacrificially is _____ aerobics.

3. BREAKS THE GRIP OF _____

Matthew 6:24 (NIV) [Jesus] "You cannot serve both God and money."

- Only one antidote to materialism: _____.

I Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV) "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment command them...to be generous and willing to share. In this way...they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

4. STRENGTHENS MY _____.

II Corinthians 9:13 (Ph) "Your giving proves the reality of your faith."
Take the Pepsi challenge: I **DARE** you!

II Corinthians 9:7-8 (TEV/LB) "Give...not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more. So that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others."

- You cannot out give _____.

5. BLESSES ME _____.

I Kings 17: 7-16 "The widow at Zarephath and Elijah".

- You cannot _____ God.
- You put God _____.
- You are going to reap _____.

Proverbs 22:9 (NCV) "Generous people will be blessed..."

- God does not play. "Let's make _____!"
- God blesses _____ giving

CONCLUSION: EQUAL _____, NOT EQUAL GIFTS.

- My sacrifice to
 - Worship every week
 - Attend a Bible Class/read God's Word
 - Serve in a ministry
 - Share Jesus daily
 - Support the church with my offering/tithe