

# The Holiness Of The Offering

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Today the Lord wants me to share a teaching with you that you've probably never heard before—I know I've never heard a teaching on this subject but it a clear principle of God from the Bible that many if not most in ministry today flirt with and as you will learn—that's very dangerous. One of the reasons this has happened is that we've never lived in a time where there was more corruption in "ministry" than there is today. The reason is simple—we've never lived in a time when the world was more corrupt than it is today and so much of the world, e.g., the importance of money, entertainment, etc., has gotten over into the church. As I've shared before in my writings, I learned from a seminary professor of theology in a book he wrote in the early '90s his observation that the average man or woman today attending seminary to become a pastor saw themselves not as a broker of truth for the Lord but as the manager of a small business enterprise, a.k.a., the local church.

And, as I've shared many times, if you study Church history you will find that the number one sign of a false teacher, prophet, etc., in the early Church was a preoccupation with money. Although it requires finances to operate a church or ministry, money actually has (or should have) nothing to do with pure ministry itself.

If you've attended any of our churches or ministry meetings in other churches you know that we never say anything about finances because, quite frankly, as I pointed out in a series of messages late last year on Ministry Models, money has nothing to do with ministry. Both Jesus and

the Apostle Paul said that we are not to charge for ministering the Gospel to people and though most of the time when we go to minister it costs us money—we don't get our expenses met—the real question is, "What is the will of the Lord?" If He wants you to fly to Ohio and minister in a church what difference does it make whether they receive an offering for you or not? We've ministered in many churches where they gave us nothing and others where they received an offering for CCI but then kept back most of the offering for themselves but if you are a true Five-fold minister then you must obey the Lord no matter what the financial consequences.

In the Old Testament both tithes and offerings are mentioned. A tithe is 10%. Tithes were given before the Law under the Melchizedek Priesthood and they were also instituted under the Law given through Moses. Offerings were either of two types: (1) commanded offerings under the Law—there were many of these—or else (2) they were "freewill offerings" (*cf.* Leviticus 22:21, Ezra 1:4).

In Lev. 10:1-3 we read: "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire to the LORD, which he commanded them not. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. And Moses said to Aaron, 'This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified.''"

Now this was an *offering* that these priests were making to God—it was considered holy to the Lord. When we offer something to God, whether it's our lives, our tithes, or other offerings then the Lord considers it sacred and holy. Now I want you to especially look at the *attitude* we are to have when we come near the Lord: "I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified." I believe you know that this attitude of holiness and reverence is not exemplified in churches and ministries today regarding the offerings and in other ways as well.

I am completing the paperback book, Volume 2 of *Revelations from God* and reading my old journals brings back many memories of when the Lord shut us up and began to show us through many dreams and visions this false church religious system that masquerades as Christianity. Almost the entire year of 1999 the Lord spoke about idolatry in the church with money being the main idol. During this time He also spoke to me about a principle of God found in the Scriptures—The Hardening of the Heart Principle. As a person continues in sin and rebellion to God then their heart becomes hardened. If such a person is a Christian then they cease to hear the Holy Spirit speaking to them. If continued, this behavior can lead to what the Apostle Paul describes in Romans 1—God giving them up to what we call “a reprobate mind.”

Notice how Romans 1 ties in with the Scripture in Leviticus 10. “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened (The Hardening of the Heart Principle) . Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man ... and even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which ought not to be done.” (Romans 1:21-28)

Let’s look at another Old Testament example that would be more apropos to a financial offering today. It’s found in I Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25 and this example also concerns priests—the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas. The Word says in verse 17 that “the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.” What an interesting statement! I’ve seen this same thing occur many times during the last 30 years. Because many in ministry have used gimmicks and lies to raise money, even many pastors who have called for the women of the church to give their wedding rings, many in the Church begin to “abhor” or

disdain giving to the Lord. Consequently, the devil has used this to rob many Christians of eternal blessings (*cf.* 2 John 8, *et al*) because they stop tithing and giving offerings to the work of the Lord. No, my brothers and sisters, you are required by God to give offerings of finances, time and talent to Him and you should do it with the right *attitude* but to do it correctly and receive a “full reward” you need your giving to be like the rest of your life—follow the Holy Spirit—let Him tell you who to give to and how much. Then you will have a full reward. If you give to a Balaam ministry because of manipulation then you will have no reward for your offering and it may also lead to your developing this attitude of abhorring giving offerings to the Lord.

One of the most amazing traits of Abraham—and why he’s called the “father of our faith” and “the father of us all” is his faith. God asked Abraham to give an offering to the Lord of his most precious possession. Not only that, but it was a possession that took many long years of believing and living by faith to receive. Yet look at Abraham’s attitude and obedience to do what God told him to do and give this offering of his son Isaac.

The Lord wants us to know in this teaching, my brother and sister, that He instituted many sacrifices and offerings in the Old Testament for a reason. Yes, many of them were *types* of the Messiah but we must remember to focus not just on the offering but the attitude we are to have in giving offerings—respect, honor, reverence, and holiness. This honors the Lord God for who He is—too much of what is called the church today only looks to God for what He will provide for them and not who He is. Those who honor and reverence Him for who He is—the King of Kings and Lord of Lords—are the Jacob Generation (see our archived article).

## **SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES**

As you know, many of the offerings required under the Law such as the Sin Offering have been done away with {“Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.” (Romans 10:18)} because Jesus “fulfilled the Law.” Others such as freewill offerings and tithes still exist. And in addition to these *material* offerings we are required as Sons of God to follow in the steps of Jesus and give our lives as “holy, living sacrifices” (Romans 12:1-2) and we hear Romans 12:1 quoted all the time but did you notice the word, sacrifice? Jesus was a living sacrifice and so are we; at least that is God’s plan if we don’t resist the Holy Spirit. Please read and meditate on the following:

“Ye also, as lively (living) stones yourselves, be built into a spiritual house, To form a consecrated priesthood [why?] for the offering of those spiritual Sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” ■ 1 Peter 2:5

So I want to encourage you today to examine your life; pray and seek the Lord and ask Him to judge you and reveal to you where you fall short in both your attitudes and behavior in observing the holiness of the offerings—both material and spiritual—that you are presenting to the Lord.