

Bible Study
Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 16
Pastor Charles A. Hall – August 24th, 2023

Theme: Living for God, Not the World

“Living for God, Not the World” means that we as true Christians and believers of Jesus Christ no longer place our own selfish desires, needs, and wants above our relationship with God, making God’s desires and will a priority in our life. This means that what God wants for us, always supersedes, what we want for ourselves in any area of our life.

Foundational scriptures for our theme:

- 2 Corinthians 6:17
- 1 John 2:15-17

Prior Lessons:

- Lesson # 1 Living for God not the world
- Lesson # 2 How do we live for God, how do we stop living for the world, and why is it so difficult to live for God.
- Lesson # 3 The difficulties and challenges of living for God
- Lesson # 4 The Struggle Within
- Lesson # 5 The Influence Without
- Lesson # 6 Living Spiritually
- Lesson # 7 Being able to recognize God’s Voice
- Lesson # 8 Staying Committed to your faith
- Lesson # 9 Avoiding the pitfalls as we journey through this life
- Lesson # 10 Allowing the power of God to pick us up after a fall
- Lesson # 11 Living for God Without emulating the World
- Lesson # 12 Not Being Ashamed of Who You are In Christ
- Lesson # 13 Setting Aside Those Things that throw Us Off Course
- Lesson # 14 Living Among them without Being one of Them
- Lesson # 15 Living for God Requires a Personal Paradigm Shift

Living for God, Requires a Personal Sacrifice

The word sacrifice means and involves the act of giving up something that you want, in order to receive something else or help someone else. However, sacrifice from a biblical perspective means to give or surrender unto the Lord what He requires of us to maintain an acceptable relationship with HIM. This relationship involves the furtherance or expansion of HIS work and Kingdom here on earth. The type of sacrifices that are required to maintain a wholesome relationship with God includes our love and affection, our time, our money, our possessions, and our energy.

- Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

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The Apostle Paul tells us in the above verse that we as believers and follower of Jesus should be willing to offer up ourselves to God. The highest form of sacrifice that an individual can make to God, is to dedicate themselves to living a life in according to God's purpose for their creation

- **Proverbs 16:4** The Lord hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

When we make a conscious decision to live for God rather than the world, what we are really saying is that we are willing to give up, abandoned or delay our personal desires for the benefits and joy of living a life that is morally acceptable in the eyesight of God Almighty. To make such a bold decision, especially in today's self-indulgent environment, we must believe in our hearts, and minds that the rewards of living for God truly outweigh the rewards, and satisfaction of our personal desires and wants. The outcome of such a decision is directly correlated to the perspective, or viewpoint from which your decision is made. Let's break this down a little, if you make this decision from a natural, worldly perspective, the result will always be self, and what your personal wants and desires are. On the other hand, if your decision is made from a spiritual perspective, then the result will reflect what God wants for you and your relationship with Him. The decision process sounds pretty simple, if your decision is spiritually led, then you will yield to God's will and desires, but if you are led by your flesh, and the influence of this world, self wants and desires will win out. Our willingness to make sacrifices unto God is a direct indication of our true love and devotion (commitment) to Him.

- **Matthew 6:33** But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- **Psalms 37:3-5** Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. (4) Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. (5) Commit thy way unto the lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. (6) And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgement as the noonday.
- **Psalms 142:10-11** Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. (11) Quicken me, O Lord, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness sake bring my soul out of trouble.
- **Galatians 5:16-18** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit ye are not under the law.

There are many self-righteous people that call themselves disciples, followers of Jesus Christ, but real disciples are those who are filled with the spirit of God, and are willing to make daily sacrifices of denying themselves of personal desires and wants to serve the one and true God.

- **Luke 9:23-25** And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. (24) For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. (25) For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be castaway.