

# In With The New: The Required Sacrifice

When we obey God's command to love, we're rewarded with life.

## ***In With The New: Out With the Old***

*So far we have learned that the old is no good. The old holds onto things of the past and over time they will bring devastation into our lives. Old mindsets, trauma, bitterness, unforgiveness. Our sinful lives cannot contain the new life and the blessings God has promised.*

## ***In With The New: Faith in Jesus Christ***

*There we learned that only faith in Jesus Christ gives us access to the new life. Right standing with God, peace with God, and joy all accessible only through the power of the Holy Spirit. Outside of faith in Jesus who is the way, truth, and the life, there is only our old ways that leads to sin and death.*

## ***In With the New: The Required Sacrifice***

*So as we seek to let go of the old and put our faith in Jesus what are those steps we must take? What does God require from us?*

*In order to receive greater triumphs, we'll need greater strategies, greater empowerment, and greater revelation.*

## **New Love, New Obedience, New Rewards**

### **Jesus warns the church of Ephesus**

Revelation 2:4 New Living Translation

4 "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first!<sup>[a]</sup>

### **What is the sacrifice God requires? Love**

***A sacrifice is an intentional act of obedience, that expresses our love for God, by giving Him what pleases Him.***

Matthew 22:36-38 New Living Translation

36 “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

37 Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

### **What is the proof of love? Obedience**

John 14:15 New Living Translation

15 “If you love me, obey[a] my commandments.

- Could not knowing His commands reveal intention to not obey?

### **What are the results of obedience? Rewards**

#### ***What is the greatest reward? Life***

Matthew 16:24-25 New Living Translation

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

- Uncle Johnny

Revelation 22:12-14

New Living Translation

12 “Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.

***The required sacrifice is love, the proof of love is obedience, the results of obedience are rewards, and the greatest reward is a new life now, and an eternal life.***

## Moving out of Immaturity and into Maturity

Hebrews 6:1-10 New Living Translation

6 So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds[a] and placing our faith in God. 2 You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding. 4 For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— 6 and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame. 7 When the ground soaks up the falling rain and bears a good crop for the farmer, it has God's blessing. 8 But if a field bears thorns and thistles, it is useless. The farmer will soon condemn that field and burn it. 9 Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. 10 For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers,[b] as you still do.

- Are we showing the sacrifice of love to Him?
- Go!!! Obey!!!

## The Reward of Sacrifice

**Widow from Zarephath:**

**Zarephath means place of refinement, smelting place, place of purification with fire, and smelting is the extracting of precious metals by heat.**

**Her current condition:**

**No rewards**

**No change**

**No breakthrough**

**She was expecting death for herself and her son.**

1 Kings 17:8-15 New Living Translation

8 Then the Lord said to Elijah, 9 “Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.” 10 So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, “Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?” 11 As she was going to get it, he called to her, “Bring me a bite of bread, too.” 12 But she said, “I swear by the Lord your God that I don’t have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die.” 13 But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!” 15 So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days.

- If she would have heard and not obeyed: Information without transformation!!!

Has your spiritual life become a place of:

Information without transformation, observation without transformation, dedication without transformation.

Love through obedience is the the required sacrifice to access supernatural rewards!

- She gave Elijah what he asked for and she lived
- He used a widow to sustain His servant.
- God wants to use some of you to sustain others but you won't let go of the little to receive much.

Isaiah 1:19-20

New King James Version

19 If you are willing and obedient,  
You shall eat the good of the land;

20 But if you refuse and rebel,  
You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

- The willing and obedient will eat the good of the land.
- Can you honestly tell the Lord "I've obeyed now release the good of the land like you promised.

### **The promises of obedience:**

Deuteronomy 11:13-14 New Living Translation

13 "If you carefully obey the commands I am giving you today, and if you love the Lord your God and serve him with all your heart and soul, 14 then he will send the rains in their proper seasons—the early and late rains—so you can bring in your harvests of grain, new wine, and olive oil.

Where does the new come from? Love and obedience

The 3 products "the good of the land" must all go through a process.

- Grain, wine, oil

Bread - the sifting and the fire.

Wine - crushing and isolation

Oil - crushing

James 1:2-4 New Living Translation

2 Dear brothers and sisters,[a] when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

- When we have the bread and the wine, we have His body and blood.

- When we have his oil, we have His Holy Spirit.
- We have need of nothing!

## **Breakthrough into the New with Trust**

Psalm 37:3-9

New Living Translation

3 Trust in the Lord and do good.

Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.

4 Take delight in the Lord,

and he will give you your heart's desires.

5 Commit everything you do to the Lord.

Trust him, and he will help you.

6 He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn,

and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.

7 Be still in the presence of the Lord,

and wait patiently for him to act.

Don't worry about evil people who prosper

or fret about their wicked schemes.

8 Stop being angry!

Turn from your rage!

Do not lose your temper—

it only leads to harm.

9 For the wicked will be destroyed,

but those who trust in the Lord will possess the land.