

GOD'S NOT DONE...SO, WE'RE NOT DONE.
ISAIAH 54:2-3

Beyond.



Beyond Part 4 – The Cycle of Sacrifice Pastor Dave Patterson 04.02.2023

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Ephesians 2:10, AMP]

For we are God's workmanship (a masterpiece, His work of art). He has created us anew in Christ Jesus (transformed and renewed us), so we can do the good things and accomplish the good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Father, what do you want to do through me in this Beyond campaign?

Sacrifice = to give up or surrender something of value for the sake or cause of something greater

[2 Corinthians 8:7, NIV]

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

[2 Corinthians 8:1-2, NLT]

¹ Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through (grace bestowed) the churches in Macedonia. ² They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

Cycles of Sacrifice

1. Generosity and Sacrificial giving are not determined by circumstances or a bad economy.

[2 Corinthians 8:3-5, NLT]

³ For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. ⁴ They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. ⁵ They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and then to us, just as God wanted them to do.

Cycles of Sacrifice

2. Sacrificial giving comes from a willing heart, not from the pressure of need.

[2 Corinthians 8:8-9, NIV]

⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Cycles of Sacrifice

3. Sacrificial giving is the evidence of grace that initiates a cycle of more grace and provision.

[2 Corinthians 9:6-8, AMP]

⁶ Now remember this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to others] will also reap generously and be blessed. ⁷ Let each one give [thoughtfully and with purpose] just as he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver and delights in the one whose heart is in his gift. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace [every favor and earthly blessing] come in abundance to you, so that you may always [under all circumstances, regardless of the need] have complete sufficiency in everything and have an abundance for every good work and act of charity. (NLT – “Plenty left over to share with others”)

[Romans 12:1, AMP]

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, (his kindness, compassion and grace toward you) to offer your bodies (the entirety of who you are) as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. (Your logical and intelligent act of worship)

Key Points:

1. Generosity and Sacrificial giving are not determined by circumstances or a bad economy.
2. Sacrificial giving comes from a willing heart, not from the pressure of need.
3. Sacrificial giving is the evidence of grace that initiates a cycle of more grace and provision.

Applications for the Week:

This week, pray and read through pages 141 - 148 of your Beyond Journey Guide. Expect God to speak to you as you open your heart to what He wants you to do.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you been the recipient of someone else’s sacrifice? Briefly share how this has impacted your life.
2. Why do some talented people shy away from sacrifice and surrender? What challenges have you had to personally push past?
3. How do you wrap your mind around the concept that “God has prepared good works in advance” for us?
4. How does the current financial state of the global and/or national economy impact your faith, generosity, or perspective? How do we tap into the Economy that is bigger than our own?

5. How do we live a life trusting God with everything?
6. What leads and motivates you specifically toward sacrifice? What does that look like daily?
7. How is the cycle of grace and provision initiated? (See 2 Cor 9:6-8)

Group Action:

At the conclusion of your time together, take a moment of focused prayer to ask God, "What do you want to do through me?" Let's position our hearts to see what God wants to do and then let's encourage one another to step out and do it.