

Give God Your Best



The Lord called to Moses from the Tabernacle and said to him, “Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. When you present an animal as an offering to the Lord, you may take it from your herd of cattle or your flock of sheep and goats.

“If the animal you present as a burnt offering is from the herd, it must be a male with no defects. Bring it to the entrance of the Tabernacle so you may be accepted by the Lord. Lay your hand on the animal’s head, and the Lord will accept its death in your place to purify you, making you right with him. Then slaughter the young bull in the Lord’s presence, and Aaron’s sons, the priests, will present the animal’s blood by splattering it against all sides of the altar that stands at the entrance to the Tabernacle. Then skin the animal and cut it into pieces. The sons of Aaron the priest will build a wood fire on the altar. 8 They will arrange the pieces of the offering, including the head and fat, on the wood burning on the altar. But the internal organs and the legs must first be washed with water. Then the priest will burn the entire sacrifice on the altar as a burnt offering. It is a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

~ Leviticus 1:1-9 (NLT) ~

Sometimes Leviticus can feel like a bit of a strange part of the Bible. But Leviticus is just instructions for how God’s people in the Old Testament were to live, loving God and loving others.

The instructions we just read are part of the instructions God gave for his people for when they wanted to bring a sacrifice or offering voluntarily – that is just because they want to – to say thank you to God and tell him how much they love him.

So when God’s people in the Old Testament wanted to bring a voluntarily sacrifice to God, they had to make sure that the animal they brought for God

was perfect – it was complete and had nothing wrong with it. This is because is completely perfect and deserves very best, not the leftovers or the things that no one else wants.

God's people now don't need to bring animals as sacrifices to say thank you to God and tell him how much we love him because of what Jesus did – dying on the cross and coming alive again. But God still wants us to offer things to him to show we are thankful to him and that we love him.

Some of the ways we can offer things to God to say thank you to him is by loving others, using our time for God or spending it with God, or even giving money to be used for God's work. But like in the Old Testament when they used to offer animals as sacrifices, we need to make sure what we bring to God is our best.

This can look like caring for others needs even when it means we don't always get what we want. It can look like making sure we spend the first part of our time with God before we do other things. It can look like giving up some of our time to help do things to love God or others. It can even look like making sure we put aside money for God and his work and not just give after we have bought everything we want.

Because of what God has done for us, we should be thankful to him and therefore want to give him our best to say thank you and show him we love him.

Some questions to think about:

1. Why did God's people in the Old Testament sacrifice animals to God?
2. Where the animals the people sacrificed allowed to have anything wrong with them? Why?
3. Do you want to give things back to God to say thank you to him and to say you love him?
4. How can we give things to God to say thank you to him and that we love him today?

Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for all you have done for us. Sorry we don't always give you our best. Please help us to give you our best to say thank you and we love you.
Amen.