**The Pillar on Sacrifice**

Intercessors have the gift of giving and receive pleasure in sacrifice, even if bittersweet.

***Ps 50:5 NKJV***

*"Gather My saints together to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."*

When we accept Jesus Christ, we believe on His name and identify with what His name encompasses. He took our place and gave of Himself. *I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me* ***(Gal. 2:20)*.** The opportunity now is to give as freely as has been given. And we give. We give of ourselves, our life, our time, our possessions, our resources, our tears, our prayers… According to **Matthew 16:23b-26**, Christ wants us to set our mind on the things of God, not on the things of self. He says “Deny yourself, take up your cross… What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

A living intercessor knows how to put to death the presiding fleshly rule of law that has been governing the soul. **First John 2:16** gives an outline of fleshly rule:

*Everything in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--comes not from the Father but from the world.*

Giving and lusting don’t shake hands; they don’t give warm hugs to each other. They are incompatible. Lust is selfish. When lust is the fixed point of influence, our interests are consumed with a longing that does not satisfy. Our longing should be to show the love of God to others. Pride displays the pleasure in and of self. Pride throws up caution flags to hinder the gift of giving. These flags are lies that weaken the motive from which giving flows. In covenant friendship with God, His interests become our interests, and we value what He values. Giving finds pleasure in what God wants; giving is selfless.

In life, we sometimes walk through the valley of the shadow of death, but He is with you and will anoint your head with oil. *Walk* in Psalm 23:4 means “bear, bring, carry away, come away, depart, flow.” Just as we walk, we can carry away the burdens of others to God. Step into the flow of the Spirit and He will meet you there. God is the Ultimate Giver. Do you know Him as a giver? Even when there is self-need, the intercessor is still faithful to serve. As Jesus went to the cross for the joy set before Him, we follow the same willingness to sacrifice, making requests by petition and making declarations by faith, looking toward the end result, standing in victory. Sacrifice then is satisfying.

***Isaiah 53:10-11 NKJV***

*Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.*

In our role as living intercessors, we do not give up but take courage.

**Galatians 6:9**

*Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

Although labor (travail - toil) sometimes causes annoyance and at times it is very intense and painful, a living intercessor realizes that it is our privilege as a royal priesthood to get to proclaim the excellence’s of Him who calls out of darkness into His marvelous light. As intercessors, we ask Him on behalf of another for answers and act on His behalf for His will to be done. We may be interceding for another’s needs, but we get to present His finished work on the cross.

*We overcome by the word of our testimony, the blood of the Lamb, and we do not love our life so much as to shrink from death.* **(Revelation 12:11)**