

November 27, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Heb. 13:15 *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that openly profess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. (NIV)*

I've mentioned my youth pastor many times in these devotionals. He had a huge impact on my life and I'm continually amazed at many of the things I remember from his tutelage. His commitment to teach and share with the youth in our church is still making an impact today. One of the things I remember about him was that he seemed to always be full of joy. He was always reminding us to give thanks to the LORD for all the awesome things He has done and is doing. I love the quote by **Winston Churchill** - *A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, but an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.* For us as believers, we must also see things from God's perspective, recognizing that even though these days may be difficult, we have a hope and a future that will not be compromised by the powers of this world. As a result, we should continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise. The word *sacrifice* means something that we are willing to give up. We so easily praise the things or people of this world, even though they are temporal. How much more should we be praising the Eternal Almighty God. He is worthy of our praise!

The author of Hebrew throws in a reminder to us all: *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* You see, when the LORD changes our hearts to follow Him, we will then love the people He loves and care about their spiritual lives as well. Let us grow more into the likeness of the Son Who gave everything up for us.

Dear LORD, we need to be reminded daily of Your incredible sacrifice and that we should be constantly praising You for all that You have done. Help us to get past ourselves and live in You. In Jesus Name, Amen