

## Acceptable Sacrifices

From *Transforming Prayer*, by Daniel Henderson

*Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

(1 Peter 2:4-5)

Did you catch that? *Sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* Not all sacrifices are created equal. From a New Testament standpoint, the following are acceptable sacrifices.

- A commitment to worship in spirit and in truth.
- A genuine sacrifice of praise, giving thanks to His name.
- The presentation of our bodies in complete surrender.
- A life of love that produces right living.
- Doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus with thanksgiving.
- Service conducted in supernatural power.
- Generosity flowing from a heart of love.

God is not looking for a dutiful contribution of time or energy in the spirit of religious observance. He is looking for a hungry heart that seeks after Him in praise, gratitude, and loving surrender, with a readiness to pray, think, and live like Jesus as the expression and overflow of that intimacy.

I fear sometimes that our routine and dutiful approach to prayer may be missing the mark of God's heart and concern for His own glory. We must continue to grow so that we understand prayer as more of a transforming experience in the Holy of Holies and less like a rushed trip to the grocery store to grab what we think we need for the day.

(For a free copy of Daniel's book *Transforming Prayer*, contact the Lamplighters office. Shipping charges incur. Supplies are limited.)

## How to Start a *Cords of Three* Prayer Ministry

**Step 1 - Commit** yourself to God as His servant to begin this new prayer ministry. Ask Him to help you identify one or two (max.) other believers and invite them to join you each week for a 10-15 minute phone prayer meeting. Don't expect everyone to say "yes."

Write the names below of those you are going to invite to join you.

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**Step 2 - Organize** an initial phone meeting to decide on the logistics (day, time, who will initiate the call, etc.). Put it on your calendar and don't let anything supplant it.

**Step 3 - Resolve** to begin on a specific date and to be committed to the Lord, to each other, and the weekly prayer meeting.

**Step 4 - Deploy.** Get started. It may seem a bit awkward at first, but your *Cords of Three* prayer ministry will quickly become a powerful spiritual influence in your life and the lives of those you meet with each week.



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