

God has shown to motivate your service to Him. This should cause you to look beyond your own physical desires in how you conduct your life!

Make a living, holy, and pleasing sacrifice. Notice these words that characterize how you will respond to God if you truly understand the sacrifice He has made for you. First notice, though, that you must make a sacrifice. Therefore, your Godfidence is expected to result in something being surrendered/sacrificed to the Lord. But, this sacrifice is not just up to you to define however you desire. Rather, consider how God has defined it.

God says your sacrifice must be a living one. Therefore, it is not a one-time sacrifice (as an animal or grain sacrifice that could only be used once). Instead, your entire life (everything about it and for as long as you live) is to be presented to God and is used in His service (Romans 6:12-13; 1 Peter 2:4-5). Then, God says your living sacrifice must be holy and pleasing to Him. So, you must carefully search the Scriptures and carry out God's will in your own life, letting the authority of Jesus Christ determine your character, thoughts, speech, conduct, religious service, etc. (Colossians 3:17).

Be transformed, not conformed. Satan is working hard so that you will view yourself in the same physically focused ways as the rest of the world. So, it is critical that you continue to embrace the truths we have established in this series and see yourself as God sees you. If you will do this, you will be transformed and live for God rather than being shaped by the same sinful molds that shape the rest of this world – and be okay with sticking out from the rest of the world like light shining in a world that is full of darkness, even if others hate you for it (Matthew 5:14-16; John 3:19-21)!

Conclusion

Are you living with Godfidence? That is, do you stay ready for the challenges Satan will throw your way, respond to these challenges appropriately, and present yourself to God as a living sacrifice? Make no mistake about it: God can use you in His service to accomplish wonderful things if you will let Him. But, you must develop and live with Godfidence so that you will truly see yourself in the same wonderful way God sees you!

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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Godfidence is not just something that you develop at one time and never have to be concerned with again. Rather, it is something that you must carefully develop, protect, and then use throughout your life! For, there will be continual challenges to convince you to view and conduct yourself in ways that go against this God-centered view of who you are. This results in you failing to be as useful in God's service as you can be. However, if you are diligent in developing, protecting, and using Godfidence, you will allow God to use your life in ways that will glorify Him to your greatest potential!

The purpose of this lesson is to learn that your Godfidence will be challenged, how to respond to these attacks, and how to present your living sacrifice to God.

Your Godfidence Will Be Challenged

Satan is your adversary. People often treat what Satan does as if he is trying to help them and give them something that is good for them (i.e. pleasure, wealth, relationships, ease of living, etc.). But, the Scriptures regularly warn that Satan is your enemy who is trying to destroy you (1 Peter 5:8; John 8:44; Ephesians 6:16; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15). One way he is successful is by distorting how people view themselves.

Satan wants you to focus on physical things. The war for your soul comes down to the basic battle between physical and spiritual things. As we have seen earlier in this study, your perspective of who you are should not be focused on physical things that are temporary. Rather, it must be focused on spiritual things that last (Romans 8:5-8)! The challenge as you live on this earth is to keep this perspective rather than

getting caught up in all the physical things that are going on around you and appeal to your physical desires. For this reason, you must come to view yourself as a pilgrim (temporary resident/exile on this earth) and abstain from the sinful desires Satan is using to wage this war against your soul (1 Peter 2:11-12).

Examples of Satan working to distort focus. Satan is good at what he does, though what he does is not good. Namely, Satan is a deceiver and manipulator who does not want you (or anyone) to see things for what they really are. For example, when Satan tempted Eve, he challenged what God had told her and convinced her that God was trying to keep them from something that would be beneficial for them (Genesis 3:1-6). Or, when Satan was allowed to harm Job, he did so to try and prove that Job only served God because of the ways God had blessed him (Job 1:8-12; Job 2:9-10). Or, when Satan tempted Jesus, he challenged Jesus to prove who He was by doing things contrary to the will of God (Matthew 4:3, 5-6). Today, Satan continues working in these ways today to distort the way you view yourself and your focus.

Responding To Satan's Attacks

1 Corinthians 10:12-13. Although defeating Satan's attacks can seem like an impossible task, the Scriptures routinely demonstrate that it is actually quite possible! One key to maintain a proper view of yourself is to be careful when you think you are standing. For, there have been many people who have once developed the proper view of themselves and later fell. Sometimes Satan is successful in changing how people view themselves in one quick series of events. Other times, Satan is successful after an extended period of deceiving people. Therefore, you must always stay alert to the ways in which Satan is working!

Then, God assures you that the ways in which you are tempted are the same ways other people are tempted. So, while the specific circumstances vary from person to person, the essence of the temptations are the same. Yet, because God is faithful (trustworthy), you can be fully confident that there is always a way to do what is right – and that God knows the temptation is not more than you can handle through the strength He provides!

1 Peter 5:8-9. You must take God's instructions concerning how you can overcome Satan's attacks in this passage. This start with observing what God teaches concerning your mindset. First, you must be sober-minded to keep your mind properly prepared and free from anything that would impair your ability to recognize Satan's deceptions. Second, you

must be alert to stay ready and watchful for any way that he may attack you at any time.

Next, notice what God teaches about the actions you must take. First, you must resist Satan by rejecting any of the advances Satan tries to make against you, recognizing anything he is trying to convince you of is not in the best interest for your soul (James 4:7). Second, you must stand firm in the faith in God and the faith God has revealed in the gospel so as to never compromise it. Third, you must recognize you are not alone in this fight as you have brothers and sisters in Christ who are engaged in the same spiritual battles you are fighting against Satan and can lean on them for support and encouragement!

Ephesians 6:10-18. This passage further emphasizes that we can overcome Satan, as we have been given armor from God to use in the fight against Satan! And, notice the promise made multiple times in this passage that putting on this armor will enable you to stand and withstand the attacks of Satan!

If you want the impact of this armor in your life, you must carefully put on and use each piece of the armor in your daily life. So, you must use truth to answer Satan's lies and manipulations. You must have such a commitment to what God says is right that anything contrary to it will not be allowed to work in your life. You must let God's good news of salvation through Jesus work to produce peace in you that cannot be shaken. You must use faith in God, in Jesus, and in His word as a first line of defense against Satan's attacks. You must use the hope of eternal salvation in Heaven to anchor you in serving God. You must use God's word to fend off attacks from Satan and advance the cause of His kingdom. And, you must use prayer as a way to petition God for help and wisdom during the spiritual war you fight.

Present Your Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1-2. Living with Godfidence doesn't just involve defending yourself against Satan's attacks. Rather, it also involves actively putting your God-centered view of yourself to work so that you please God. This passage in Romans will help you accomplish this.

Be motivated by the mercies of God. Those who are focused on physical things to define their lives will *never* be able to submit their lives fully to God and live to please Him (Romans 8:7). For, these will lack the motivation that is necessary to make the sacrifices God requires. Yet, as you have come to know both your Creator and your Savior, and recognized your own spiritual brokenness in the process, you can now use the mercy