

CHRISTIAN FINANCE SERIES

THE FRUIT OF OUR LIPS

You can never bankrupt God's supply. Whatever you claim from Him, whatever you believe God for, you will receive according to your faith. Lets look at Leviticus chapter 22 where God spoke about bringing sacrifices to Him and offerings that are accepted and not accepted. We have to consider God's standard that He placed before us. There are some kinds of offering that is not accepted in the Old Testament.

Lev.22: 17-20 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the children of Israel and say to them: "Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, who offers his sacrifice for any of his vows or for any of his freewill offerings, which they offer to the Lord as a burnt offering - you shall offer of your own free will a male without blemish from the cattle, or from the sheep, or from the goats. Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf.

God demands a sacrifice from a perfect heart. So it is not just bringing our tithes, our offering and our firstfruits to Him. It has to be perfect. Remember the law of the firstfruits that we have considered. You also have to bring certain animal sacrifices during the time of the firstfruits. We are going to cover what the firstfruits and the animal sacrifices mean in the new covenant. Here we want to take note that God says when you bring a sacrifice onto God, it has to be an animal without blemish. That means if it has spots on it, God won't accept it. If it is blind or lame, God will not accept it. God refuses a sacrifice that is imperfect. God demands of the Old Testament people that the sacrifices they bring must be perfect sacrifices.

We would have thought that God would have accepted anything. But there are something that God refuse to accept. If you understand the book of Proverbs, there are certain areas that are mentioned God will not accept. For example, finances that come from sin, He will not accept. So there are certain areas that God will classify as rejects. He will not accept at all.

In verse 22 *Those that are blind or broken or maimed or have an ulcer or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the Lord, nor make an offering by fire of them on the altar of the Lord.* That means if your animal has a skin diseases, it will be rejected. You have to examine the animal before you bring it to God.

In verse 23 *Either a bull or a lamb that has any limb too long or too short you may offer as a freewill offering, but for a vow it shall not be accepted.* That means when the animal's leg is slightly short or long but it is not lame, has no defect or skin disease, God says that's okay for certain kinds of offering. But for a vow it is not accepted. Because a vow is a stronger covenant a person is making with God. That means when they want to go deeper with God, it would not be accepted. The standard will not be accepted. The deeper you go into God, the higher the standard God demands. So a vow is a covenant that is going further than free will. It presses deeper into the depths of God. And God demands a higher standard.

In verse 24 *You shall not offer to the Lord what is bruised or crushed or torn or cut, nor shall you make any offering of them in your land.* God will not accept any injury or cut on the animal. So you must imagine what kind of time they have before they offer onto God. It was a time of searching. It is a time of examination. So remember when you bring your tithes and offering onto God, we too must have a time of examination. But today it is in a different form. It is not in the form of examining animals for defects. It is the time to examine our lives. That is why the law of tithing will not work for you if you are living in sin and are still trying to get a blessing from the Lord for your tithes and offerings. It does not tally because there is defilement in the offering. So our offering as we bring onto God must be a perfect offering. It must be offered from a perfect reason. That is God's Word. We cannot have ulterior motives involved. We cannot come with imperfection or grumbling.

Do you know that God would not accept an offering that comes with grumbling? That is an imperfection put into the offering. The bible tells us in 2 Cor.9 that when we bring onto God an offering, we must do so with a cheerful heart. It says God loves a cheerful giver. So remember that God is watching our heart when we are worshiping Him with our tithes and with our offerings.

Look at the next chapter of Leviticus at the firstfruits. In Leviticus 23 verse 10-11 *Speak to the children of Israel and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.* God is talking about the firstfruits. All of us today in a sense have firstfruits. In those days they were agricultural based. So they have their firstfruits in the form of the sheaf. When they bring the sheaf onto God, God says you shall offer it on that day.

And in verse 12 *And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord.* When they bring forth the first sheaf, they must bring blood. And a perfect lamb must shed the blood. That is the first blade of barley or wheat or whatever they planted. The firstfruits is the first blade that ripens. They bring it before God as a sheaf offering onto the Lord. And at the same they had to bring an animal sacrifice. All these cost them money. In a sense it was money. All these cost them something. It will have to cost you something in the beginning in order to receive the blessing of God later. Remember they have not seen the harvest yet. It was the first blade. And the first thing they did was to make a sacrifice in their life.

In fact king David at the end of 2 Samuel if you hear the story about how he disobeyed God, God told him, "I will give you three choices." And he took the last choice. He will be under the judgment of God. And when the angel was about to take the sword and start destroying Jerusalem, God saw and had compassion and mercy. And David was told to sacrifice to the Lord. And so he went to a field to sacrifice onto the Lord. And the person who owned the field said, "It is all right you can have it free." David said, "I will not offer anything that will not cost me anything. I will not give it onto the Lord." It is something that cost. King David said, "I will buy it from you. It must cost me something to sacrifice onto God."

King David has an attitude towards God, that when he brings something to God, it must be something of value. It is not just some throw-away thing or things that he doesn't want. It is always the best he had in his heart and mind. The giving of the firstfruits is faith's expectancy that God will bring in the total harvest.

After the first blade in Lev.23: 15 And you shall count for yourself from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf after the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord.

And in the new grain offering, it cost them even more. Look at verse 17 *You shall bring from your habitation two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the first fruits to the Lord.*

Remember by this time the harvest is all in. When the harvest came in they had a big celebration and sacrifice an offering. In verse 18 *And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year without blemish, one young bull and two rams. (Altogether ten animals.) They shall be as a burnt offering to the Lord, with the grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire, for a sweet aroma to the Lord.*

At the beginning of the harvest, they had to sacrifice the first blade and one lamb as a wave offering to the Lord. Then they counted seven Sabbaths and the day after the Sabbath, which is the 50th day. By this time, when the harvest was already over, they have to offer seven lambs, one bull, and two rams. They had to offer all these together with the bread that they made from their harvest. At the beginning of the harvest and at the end of the harvest, the Jews had to offer something. Why does God made them do this? God cause them to acknowledge that He is their source. Before they had any harvest, they have to look to Him as their source by giving Him the first blade that ripens as their wave offering. This would instill in their hearts and minds that it is the Lord who is the source of the harvest. And at the end of all the blessings, God made them to remember that He was the one who blessed them, that He is still their source. God made them look up to Him.

Do you know that many people along the way forget that God is their source of their blessing? They think that it was their strength, their wisdom and their ability that brought them the harvest. God made them to remember that He is their source from the beginning to the end. In plenty God is our source. In need God is our source. All the time He is our source. And when they had a great abundance God asked them to sacrifice more onto Him. This is a free will offering. It was not even their tithe.

Verse 19 *Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goat as a sin offering.* This one is for themselves. Sin offering is different from the first 10 animals. The first 10 animals are freewill offering. And it is a sweet aroma to the Lord. Notice the difference between a sin offering and a burnt offering. A burnt offering God said is sweet aroma to me. But a sin offering, nothing is mentioned. God made them realized that they are blessed not because they were righteous. They still have sin in their life. And they still need the blood to cover their sins. God made them realize that the reason they are blessed is because He was good to them. Not because they were righteous. Not because they were smart or they have great ability. So God made them give a sin offering for themselves.

In our time today, all the sacrifices link back to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our lamb. Jesus Christ is our sin offering. And every time God blesses you you have to remember that a sin offering is required. For us Jesus Christ has died once for all our sin. We don't need Jesus Christ to die again and again. But we need to acknowledge that we are what we are because of the grace of God. Not because we were anything but because the Blood of Jesus has cleansed us from all our sins and caused us to be in the position to be blessed by God. God wants us to acknowledge that it was the Blood of His Son that caused Him to bless us. The power of his Blood on our life purges and cleanses us that we become the righteousness of God in our lives.

Let's read on. Verse 19 continue, *And two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of peace offering.* God really made them to go through the whole thing, burnt offering, sin offering and peace offering. Peace offering is required for their continual life. It

is like what we call it brings forth the harmony and peace and a continual presence of God's covenant blessing on their lives. Sin offering talks about the past. Peace offering talks about the continuity in the future. God makes them recognize all these aspects that they need. A burnt offering is just an aroma to God. But sin offering and peace offering has to do with our life.

Verse 20 -21 *The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the Lord for the priest. And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you.* In other words that 50th day was a high Sabbath. During the high Sabbath God requires that they observe the same rule as the Sabbath. The Sabbath was made for them to rest. It was also made for them to worship God. So they had to have a time of praise and worship. In the beginning of the harvest and at the end of the harvest you worship the Lord. Set a day if you want, fasting and praying and rejoicing before God consecrated to the Lord. And you will have God's continual blessing on your life.

Lets bring the whole picture to the New Testament and look at these facts here. How do we offer our sacrifices today? In Heb.3: 1 Jesus is now our high priest. And we bring all our sacrifices to Jesus. He is the High Priest that handles all the things. And we don't enter the Old Testament style of an earthly tabernacle with the heavenly Holy of holies, heavenly Holy place and the heavenly Outer court.

Heb.3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus. Notice Jesus is the high priest of our sacrifice. He is the high priest that handles our sacrifices. And here He is called the high priest of our confession. The word confession in Greek is the word *homologos*, which the author is talking about confessing the Word of God. *Homo* means the same, *logos* is the Word of God. The word *homologos* means confessing in Him with the words of our mouth. Jesus is the high priest of our confession. In other words Jesus handles our confession. Just as the Old Testament the priest handled animal sacrifices. And in the New Testament Jesus is the high priest and He handles our sacrifices our word.

I want to emphasize on the area of word. He handles our confession from our mouth. Every time Jesus is mentioned as a high priest, confession is also always mentioned. Heb.4: 14 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.* What is he saying here? Jesus is our high priest. Jesus will see to it that what He promised comes to pass. What we claim comes to pass. What His word has spoken into our life comes to pass. He is the high priest that will make sure it is all coming to pass. He will see to it. He will cause all the heavenly forces to work on our behalf so that the Word of God shall not fall to the ground without bearing fruit. It will all come to fulfillment. He sees to it. But our part is to hold fast to our confession.

Heb.4:14 Seeing that Jesus is the high priest let us hold fast to our confession. Don't give up on your confession. At this point we are going to show how this is connected to finances. Prosperity is related to the fruit of your lips, just as the spirit of joy is related to prosperity. If you are a negative talker you are also a negative thinker and a negative believer. You will never be prosperous. If you want to be prosperous in God, you have to be positive. And you have to think positive. And you have to speak positively. And more than just being positive, you have to speak the bible promises the Word of God, which are also positive. We are not just talking about positive thinking. Positive thinking says, "I can do it." And they do more than the one who is negative. In the world today those who are positive do more than the one who is negative. That is without God coming into the picture yet. In the world today those who believe and are positive can do more than the negative fellow who says, "I can never do it." But the guy who says, "I can do it," he is the one who makes it.

However don't stop there. That is before being born again. That is relying on your own self. But the bible confession is this, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Now that is positive and is more powerful than "I can do it." Because when you say, "I can do it," you are relying on your strength and your wisdom and your ability. When you say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," you are saying that your ability, your wisdom, your strength, your success and prosperity come from Jesus. So you rely on the strength of Jesus, on the wisdom of Jesus, on the ability of Jesus in you. Now that is positive. That is what I mean when I said bible positive-ness. It goes back to the Word of God, because the Word of God is positive. It tells us promises. A promise is a positive statement of

God's blessings for us. If a person is negative in their attitude, negative in their talk, negative in their conversation, I can assure you that person will reap poverty. The fruit of their lips they shall harvest.

Proverb 10:19 *In the multitude of words sin is not lacking. But he who restrains his lips is wise.* So men who do not learn to control their words and their lips will never be prosperous. I am not talking about just controlling publicly but controlling privately too. Anyway we are talking about checking your lips. He who checks his lips is wise.

Verse 20 *The tongue of the righteous is choice silver. The heart of the wicked is worth little.*

Verse 21 *The lips of the righteous feed many. But fools die for lack of wisdom.* The lips of the righteous will encourage others. The lips of the righteous will bring blessings on others. And the lips of the righteous will bring blessing on themselves and they can feed others. Prosperity is involved in the context of verse 21

Verse 22 *The blessing of the Lord makes one rich. And He adds no sorrow with it.*

Proverbs 18: 20 *A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth.* This verse tells you that the fruit of your lips shall satisfy your stomach, your needs, your daily food, your physical needs and your physical prosperity. What you say is what you get. What you confess you will receive. So if you want to be prosperous start talking right. Start talking about the blessing of God in your life. Don't go around and sharing with a hundred people saying, "I don't know what is happening. Things never work out." Then you go back and pray, "God please bless me." You are harvesting your words. You are harvesting poverty into your life. So you are sowing poverty and you are harvesting poverty by your lips. You are eating the fruit of your lips. Your words will bring a harvest. In the realm of prosperity, talking is very important. What you talk, what you say is vitally important. You cannot afford to have loose lips, guard it.

Proverb 18: 20b *From the produce of his lips he shall be filled.* The words that you speak

will produce. In case we forget about that verse 21 of Prov. 18 says, *Death and life are in the power of the tongue*. Look at the continuation, *and those who love it shall eat of its fruit*. Do you realize it talks about prosperity? That talks about God supplying your needs. It is important the words you say. The words you speak. Prosperity is also a of the fruit of your lips. What you confess and what you speak. If you keep talking about your needs instead of your supply, you will only harvest needs. If you are having a situation of indebtedness and you go around sharing about it, instead of saying, "I believe that God is meeting my needs," and making a testimonial confession of the faithfulness of God, you go round having a pity party, and saying, "Have some pity on me. This is what has happened to me." You can take the same situation and make it something positive. You could take the same situation and turn it into an opportunity. You can have a bottle that is half filled. The pessimist will say that it is half empty. The optimist will say that it is half full. It is the same situation for both but the pessimist is saying that it is already half finished. The optimist will say that we still got half left. Same bottle, same amount of water but it just the way you look at it.

All who believe in the living God must be optimistic. God is an optimist because He knows the end. You cannot rejoice without being an optimist. Sometimes the situation we face we think we are the only ones who have faced it And we look at it and say its half empty. Another person with faith in God who comes into the same situation says, "I praise God." Here is what we have and here is what God is going to do. And they go around and talking to 100 people and saying what God is going to do. And they got it. Another person get the same situation goes around 100 people and say look at what has happened to me. They always wonder why they never get out of the situation. Why? It is because they talk negative talk. You shall eat the produce of your lips. Your words will bring prosperity or bring poverty into your life. Death and life is in the power of the tongue. Those who love and know the result of the harvest of words in prosperity, they will eat of its fulfillment.

I reckon after this teaching there is going to be less talk. But you can have more talk of the right kind. If you are always wondering why God doesn't make a breakthrough in your life, check your mouth. That's the first oil check. Every 1,000 kilometers check that. Check your mouth all along the way. Send your mouth for some mouth service. Where is the service station? Here. It is the Word of God. Let the Word of God service your mouth.

Ps. 34:12 *Who is the man who desire life and love many days that he may see good?* Now that talks about prosperity. When you talk about a satisfied life, when you talk about a good life that talks about prosperity. Verse 8-10 *Taste and see that the Lord is good.* So the word good is used in the same context of prosperity. *Blessed is the man who trusts in Him. Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints. There is no want to those who fear Him.* It does not even say there are *no needs*. He says there is *no want*. That means all your desires are fulfilled. Not only your needs, but your desires. And he says, *The young lions lack and suffer hunger. But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good.* So the word *good* is used three times is in reference to prosperity, abundance, and the provision of God. Having talked about God goodness, taste and see that He is good and in verse 10 the young lions lack and suffer hunger. But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good. Then he turned around and says in verse 11, *Come, you children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the man who desires life and loves many days that he may see good?* Verse 13 gives us the answer, *“Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.”* Speak only what you want and don't have loose lips. In other words keep the gap shut. Notice he says all the prosperity and all the good things that you want to have from the Lord or what the Lord can do for you, if you want all these things keep your tongue from evil and from speaking lies. Watch what your mouth speaks.

Now you understand why Jesus is the high priest of our confession. Lets see what Jesus says about words. Prosperity will depend on your word. Matt. 12 verse 36 *But I say to you for every idle word men may speak,* (He is talking about idle word. It is not enough to speak wrong words and evil words. You must also watch that you don't speak idle words. The reason is your words have power. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Prov.18:21) *they will give account of it in the day of judgment.* That is in the future.

Look at verse 37 *For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.* As disciples of God, we don't go through the Day of Judgment with the non-believers. We have a Christian judgment, a judgment for rewards. So here Jesus must be talking about something in this life also. *For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned.*

If for example you have property and somebody stole it from you. Legally the property belongs to you. It may be worth \$200,000.00. But it has been stolen from you. You have the papers to prove that it is yours. So you go to court and you have the case heard in order that you may have what belongs to you to be restored to you. What are you going to the court to do? You are going to the court to be justified. So that when the court declared legally it is yours, then all the working elements of the law will come on your side and make sure that it all comes to you. When it all comes to you, you have been justified. Before you went to the court, legally it was yours. But you have not been justified. Justice has not been given to you. You have been robbed. You have been cheated. It is yours but you are under injustice. Not under justice. But when we say you have been justified, justice has come to you. Then you are saying a complete restoration of your rights has been given to you. When we say you are justified, it means you taste all the blessing of what it is like to have justice done to you. The right and privilege that are yours are being manifested.

Jesus turned around and said, *“By your words you will be justified.”* In other words you may be in a situation where you are having injustice. There may be things that belonged to you. There may be blessings that belonged to you. And that in Christ you know that Jesus was made poor so that you could be made rich. Prosperity is yours. See there are blessings that belong to you. As long as you don't taste them, you have not been justified. You have been denied justice. The Word of God have not been justified in your life. How are you going to justify yourself in that sense? Your words, by your words you will be justified. In other words, I am going to speak the word of God, the devil may try to keep the blessings from me. But I know I am justified by my words. I am going to say thank you God for your blessings. I am going to go around talking and begin to sow with my words because my words are going to change the situation. My words are going to move that mountain. My words are going to cause all those blessings to come back onto me. My words are going to bring the justification in my life. So the justification comes by my own words.

By your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned. The devil rob you, somebody rob you. You say it's all right. See by negative talk the case is

settled. The devil don't even say thank you to you. He just runs off with your goods. By your words you will be justified. And Jesus is the high priest of our confession. If you give onto Jesus a good confession, He could see to it that he brings that confession to pass. All you have to do is to watch thy mouth. Make sure thy mouth produces the right kind of words so that you get the right kind of harvest. If you want to test, go ahead and sow the test. If you want a good harvest of wheat or barley or prosperity sow the right words. Your words shall go forth and reap a harvest.

Heb.3:1 Jesus is the high priest of our confession. Heb.4: 14 Seeing that Jesus is the high priest, let us hold on to our words. Hold on to our confession. For it shall come to pass. How do we hold on? By saying the same thing in season and out of season. In every situation saying the same thing.

Heb.10: 19-23 *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to our confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.* He will fulfill to what he promised. He has spoken that I am redeemed from the curse of the law. Prosperity is mine. It is my privilege as a child of God to prosper. It tells you don't waver. Don't waver which part? Don't waver your confession. Don't talk negative. You get doubt when you talk negative. It won't be interesting to harvest both wheat and tares together. You have to sow one kind of seed. You have to speak only positively. And speak about the promise of God. And speak what God can do. Prosperity comes forth from the fruit of your lips, your confession of all the promises of God.

Heb.13: 15. *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.* We mentioned that in the new covenant the sacrifice you offer is your lips. But do not forget to do well and to share with those who do not have. For without sacrifices God is not pleased. Your mouth and your action follow. Your mouth rules in the realm of prosperity. In other words you declare what you want. I am not talking about selfish covetous and sinful declaration. I am talking about those whose hearts are right with God

and who know what the Word say. So you say what you want. You don't say your negative problem. And whenever you have a situation that you faced, whether something is being held back which is yours, you could go and say, "In the Name of the Lord Jesus I call it to come. In the Name of Jesus I thank you Father it is done. It is here. It is mine." See you say what you want. You declare your day. You could wake up in the morning and say, "I declare this day is the day of prosperity." And it is yours.

In the Old Testament when they harvest the first sheaf, what did they do? They bring a sacrifice. Now what is your sacrifice and my sacrifice? The fruit of our lips. So we bring our animal sacrifice through Jesus Christ. Remember by his Blood you make a confession. When you see the first blade of harvest, start your confession. And keep your confession running all the time. When the first blade comes you confess, "I thank you God the rest are coming. I thank you Father I have abundance." Even if you are having one sheaf, you confess, you declare, you bring a lamb onto God. You sacrifice a burnt offering onto the Lord. And then when you end the sacrifice, you have to offer the 10 animals mentioned in Lev. 23 and the sin offering that is the Blood of Jesus. Acknowledge His Blood, make your biblical confession based on his Blood. It is Him not us that purchased the blessings for us.

And the other sacrifices two animals of peace offering. How do we sacrifice? By our words. At the end of the harvest you want to harvest some more. You want more harvest for the next year. So you make a lot of confession. You worship God, you praise God. And you say thank you Lord for more harvest coming. Thank you Lord for what you have done here. It's only a little bit of what you can do. Your confession should even abound. Some people after God blesses them, they say, "I just don't know how all these good things came like that." No! You should say, "Thank you Lord," or you are going to reap poverty in the future. You have to keep sowing your right words because your mouth will produce for you. Provb.10, Provb.18 and Ps.34. Remember these verses that you will eat the fruit of your lips.

Father God I sow before you the right words, for death and life are in the power of the tongue. And those who love it shall eat its fruit thereof. I thank you Father for the power of the tongue. And that Jesus is my high priest to watch over my

confession. To watch over the sacrifices I bring onto you. And I bring forth right words from this day forward I will watch my mouth. I will not let any sin come from my mouth. I will not let any negative word come from my mouth. I will set a watch on my tongue. I will speak only the words that are in line with your words. I will only speak what your Holy Spirit allows me to speak. I will speak Your words. I will not speak my own words. I won't speak my circumstances. But I will speak Your promises. I will say them out aloud like Joshua. You told him in Joshua 1:8 that this book of the law not depart from his mouth. And he will meditate on it day and night. And he will have good success. I thank you Father as I continually speak Your word, I will harvest your words. I will have good success. Day and night I will speak Your word. Your positive word, faith building word, words of prosperity, words of health and words of healing. I thank you the harvest is coming. I thank You, I open my heart to receive the harvest and to eat the fruit of my lips in Jesus' Name. Amen.