

Title: Becoming a living sacrifice I - living for the dream
Speaker: André Kruger
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We need a dream

- ***The Christian life is not a call to a life of comfort, but to a life of sacrifice.***
- Do you have something calling you to live the higher life?
- *There cannot be fire, without a sacrifice. We provide the sacrifice, God provides the fire.

Alienated from the life of God

Ephesians 4:17–24 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their **understanding darkened**, being alienated from the life of God, because of **the ignorance that is in them**, because of the **blindness of their heart**; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

- **For the believer everything has changed!** A new timeline and a new identity. We become a part of a Heavenly family, we become a Heavenly citizen, and we receive a royal lineage.
- The power of a new identity: "For sons, the heavens are always open."

Learned Christ

²⁰ ***But you have not so learned Christ***, ²¹ ***if indeed*** you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² ***that you put off***, concerning your former conduct, ***the old man which grows corrupt*** according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you ***put on the new man*** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

- **"Not so learned Christ"** - believers are different from the rest of the world. Jesus Christ is their source and defines them.
- A transformation happens when we hear Christ and are taught by Him. The old is cast off and the new man is put on.
- **"The truth is in Jesus"** - Who we really are, is found in Christ. He is our source and anchor.

Living by Revelation - eyes to see heaven's reality

Ephesians 1:16–19 (ESV) ¹⁶ *I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of glory**, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having **the eyes of your hearts enlightened**, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might*

- We need "eyes" to see!
- **Spirit of Wisdom + Revelation** - seeing Him, but also the wisdom to translate that into daily living.
- When we see, when our eyes are opened to realise everything God has given us, then it isn't hard to sacrifice. Then to become a living sacrifice is a joy!
- **Our role?** We like Paul can pray for others and impart the blessing of seeing.

Experiencing God - we grow when we taste His goodness

1 Peter 2:1–5 (ESV) ¹ *So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.* ² *Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—* ³ ***if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*** ⁴ *As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God **chosen and precious**,* ⁵ *you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, **to offer spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

- The Word of God – causes us to grow up / grow thereby
- “If indeed” – “you have tasted that the Lord is good”. When we experience the goodness of God, literally tasting it, then we will truly grow. Christ comes alive to us.
- When we hear Him, when we are taught by Him and when we taste His goodness, then we will become living sacrifices!

House of dreams

- Let's awake to the fullness of God's dream for each of us. We will then begin to live the higher life!

Psalm 81:10–13 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; **Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.*** ¹¹ *“But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me.* ¹² *So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels.* ¹³ ***“Oh, that My people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways!***