

40 Days of Prayer & Devotion to Easter

Day 36

We, as believers, are the offering. The concept sounds strange within a culture of individualism and constant activity. Dying to the flesh is not just about wants or desires; it involves a surrender of every aspect of our lives. That means our every activity must be evaluated under the admonishment to present ourselves as a sacrifice before the Lord. Here are a few painful areas for consideration:

- *Where I go ...*
- *What I watch ...*
- *What I read ...*
- *What I eat ...*
- *What I spend ...*

OUCH! I am writing as one who has a sweet tooth “bigger than Texas.” Each of us must prayerfully consider our level of surrender in areas such as those listed above. How we live can represent a Gospel-passion or a lack thereof. Believe me, it is easy to feel defeated as we consider the need to improve. But with the Holy Spirit as our guide, God will reveal any area that is lacking. He will draw us closer. I have never met a perfect Christian, but I have met those whose lives challenge me to do better.

All I ask is that you join me as a “work in progress” in striving to lay everything at the feet of Jesus. We soon realize that it is not about what we give up but rather what we lay at His feet. He will use our lives for His glory in marvelous ways. What we give up can start Gospel conversations!

Steps for the day:

1. *Pray for Holy Spirit’s guidance.*
2. *Set a goal for at least one area of surrender.*
3. *Keep going.*

The goal is not to pass a test that we create, but to present ourselves before the Lord as an offering. Don’t let your service for the Lord become a substitute for personal surrender.

– Pastor Bill Shiflett

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

– Romans 12:1

