

# Sacrifice Is No Substitute for Obedience

by A.W. Tozer

---

*True spiritual growth and victory come from obeying God's commandments, not just from intense prayer or emotional outpourings.*

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 15:22, Psalm 119:60, Proverbs 3:5-6, Micah 6:8, Matthew 7:21, Luke 6:46, John 14:15, Romans 12:1, Hebrews 10:26-27, James 1:22

**Topics:** "True Worship", "Obedience"

---

## Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes that true obedience to God is far more important than the intensity of our prayers or emotional displays. He points out that many of us may fervently pray while still resisting God's commands, highlighting the futility of sacrifice without obedience. Tozer illustrates this with Jacob's struggle, noting that true victory comes when we humbly confess our shortcomings and submit to God's will. The sermon challenges listeners to reflect on their own lives and the ways they may be avoiding obedience to God. Ultimately, it calls for a genuine commitment to follow God's commandments rather than relying on emotional expressions of faith.

---

## Transcript

It is almost unbelievable how far we will go to avoid obeying God. We call Jesus "Lord" and beg Him to rejuvenate our souls, but we are careful to do not the things He says. When faced with a sin, a confession or a moral alteration in our life, we find it much easier to pray half a night than to obey God.

Intensity of prayer is no criterion of its effectiveness. A man may throw himself on his face and sob out his troubles to the Lord and yet have no intention to obey the commandments of Christ. Strong emotion and tears may be no more than the outcropping of a vexed spirit, evidence of stubborn resistance to God's known will. Jacob wrestled against the angel through one whole night. It was only after he had been defeated that he became the aggressor and refused to let go of God.

Why did Jacob resist so long? Because he was ashamed to confess his name to the angel. When he finally broke down and admitted that he was the supplanter, the victory was won. He triumphed in defeat.

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/aw-tozer/sacrifice-is-no-substitute-for-obedience/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**