

Hope Through Sacrifice

December 28, 2025

Love
Relationship
Sacrifice

¹²This is my commandment: *Love each other* in the same way I have loved you. ¹³There is no greater love than to *lay down one's life* for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends *if* you do what I command." John 15:12-14 (NLT)

1. Surrender

²⁴Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you *must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me*. ²⁵If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?" Matthew 16:24-26 (NLT)

Following Jesus is counter-cultural and counter-me.

Hope is on the other side of surrender.

2. Serve

Provide • Protect • Prevail is all about ME
Love • Relationship • Sacrifice is all about OTHERS

⁴³But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you *must be your servant*, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but *to serve others* and to *give His life* as a ransom for many." Mark 10:43-45 (NLT)

Our purpose is never about us, it's always about OTHERS.

Brings Peace, Joy and Contentment
Builds your Identity and Relationships
Grows your Faith, Hope, Love

3. Simplify

⁴¹This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is *God's word*. ... ¹⁴The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but *all too quickly* the message is *crowded out* by the *cares* and *riches* and *pleasures* (Hēdonē) of this life and so they never grow into maturity". Luke 8:11, 14 (NLT).

You can't add Jesus to your already crowded life ... He is your life.

Hope is found through sacrifice.

What is your next step?

- Is it to Surrender? To fully surrender your life to Christ?
- Is it to Serve? To serve your family and the people around instead of serving yourself?
- Is it to Simplify? To evaluate how you spend your time and your money so that the cares, riches and hedonism of this life won't crowd out your desire to follow Jesus.