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OUR SACRIFICIAL GIVING

We often hear about offering *“the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name”* in Hebrews 13:15, but verse 16 speaks also of another sacrifice. It says, *“But to do good and communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”* Let us look deeper into the meaning of verse 16. The key words in the original Greek text are good, communicate, and sacrifices. The real meanings of these words are lost in the English translation.

Good is the Greek word *eupoiia* (Strongs 2140) which means beneficence, well-doing, to do good. In context in this verse, it means to be a benefactor, i.e., one who gives.

Communicate is the Greek word *koinonia* (Strongs 2842) which means to be in partnership or participation with others as a benefactor, involving a distribution or a contribution.

Sacrifices is the Greek word *thusia* (Strongs 2378) which means the act of making a sacrifice. In context, it means to share what you have with others.

This verse is speaking of giving to the need of or in support of others especially regarding the support of ministers or ministries. This is seen again in Philippians 4:18 where the Apostle Paul writes to the church in Philippi acknowledging the gifts of support that he received from them, calling it *“a sacrifice (thusia) acceptable, well-pleasing to God.”*

So, these two passages clearly indicate the sacrifices given to support ministries with our sacrificial offerings, which are above and beyond our tithe into the storehouse where we are spiritually fed.

Such gifts and offerings are pleasing to God. Philippians 4:18 sets the context for the famous verse 19 which then says, *“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”* This verse clearly tells us that as we give and support others, then God will give also to us. God is not asking us to simply give out of our abundance, but even to give sacrificially out of our own need. In return, He will bless us from His great and vast supply.

You cannot outgive God, especially when what is given is given in the right spirit.