Scripture reading: 1 Samuel 13:1-15

Spiritual Growth Will Bring Humility, Love and Faith

By now, Saul had ruled over the people of Israel for one year. That year, God made him victories over all his enemies. The 2nd year, Saul chose for himself 300 men. He kept 2000 of them with himself and the rest 1000 were with his son Jonathan. His character began to change. He trusted on his strength and desired to boast among people concerning his and his son' victory. At that time, multitude of Philistines encamped in Michmash against the Israelites. Each time before the Israelites went to war; Samuel would make a burnt offering, worship God and then send them with God's blessings. When Saul and his people were waiting for Samuel, looking at the multitude of Philistines gathered against them, people slowly started to walk away from Saul. Fearing that all the people might leave him, Saul himself sacrificed the burnt offering. Samuel, who came after that, rebuked Saul and said that God has chosen another person as king in his place because of this act.

Question:

What is the sin in Saul making the burnt offering? Will God reject him because of that?

Answer:

1. Before Jesus Christ, even to make the burnt offerings, people were anointed and chosen of God.

2. Even then, in some instances he accepted offerings made otherwise because the people made it out of love and faith. He honored it and blessed them.

3. The God we worship looks into our heart and the motives of our doings.

Saul'"s offering was not accepted because:

a) He lost his humility and gave room to pride.

b) He made the offering fearing that people might leave him.

c) He no longer leaned upon God’s might, rather began to trust in his own strength and the number of people he had on his side.

This was the reason behind God rejecting Saul.

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." Psalms 139:23

Prayer

Heavenly father, we will always fulfill our responsibilities with humility and faithfulness unlike Saul who disobeyed a