

Sacrifice Of Praise

8-3-25

Hebrews 13:15 (NIV)

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess HIS name.

Now based on the finished work of Christ, Chapters 1-13, let us continually offer up a sacrifice – a sacrifice of praise. Our sacrifice of praise is the fruit of our lips that openly profess HIS NAME. There is nothing left to do but praise the NAME of Jesus. Instead of offering up food and animal sacrifices, now as Christians we just continually offer up praise to Jesus. This is totally consistent with the OT.

Hosea 14:2 (NIV)

Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to God: “Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.”

God says, “Offer ME the fruit of your lips.” The fruit of our lips comes from our heart and reveals our character.

Matthew 12:34 (ESV)

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

What is in our heart will come out of our mouth.

Like when we see fruit on a tree, we know what kind of tree it is. The heart focused on the love of Christ will overflow in praise which will pour out of the person's mouth. What is in our heart and flowing out of our mouth will permeate our soul directing our whole body. The Apostle Paul completes this thought.

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

When we present our bodies as a living sacrifice, we are engaging in the act of spiritual worship. Our sacrifice of praise flowing from our heart will fill our whole being motivating us “to desire” to do what God tells us.

Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Therefore, through our actions, we “continually” offer sacrifices of praise to God.

Since God is continually working out HIS purposes, there are not any circumstances in which we should not offer up praise. With the sacrifice of praise, we “engage” the Spirit who will lead us in service to God. *These sacrifices* of service are directed by the power within us coming from our heart which are *pleasing to God*. **Our whole being becomes a living sacrifice.** Legalism is following rules for Jesus which only results in spiritual death. Freedom is loving Jesus and being led by the Holy Spirit which is life and power. The sacrifice of praise comes from the Holy Spirit within us.

Galatians 5:1 (NIV) NO/OH

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Galatians 5:18 (NIV) NO/OH

If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Galatians 5:25 (NIV) NO/OH

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Heavenly things are beyond our comprehension so that God will use physical pictures to communicate spiritual truths.

We are told to keep in step with the Spirit and to offer God sacrifices of praise. Our sacrifice of praise has more power than we can imagine.

Thus, the following picture.

Psalm 22:3 (ESV)

God you are holy, enthroned on the praises of YOUR people.

God is enthroned on our praises. Our praises are God's throne. The word "people" is literally Israel, but Galatians 5:16 states that we are the Israel of God. We are God's people.

God is seated on the throne of our praises, our living sacrifice. We come to church and offer a sacrifice of praise which opens heaven. But God is talking about much more than just singing on Sunday mornings. God is talking about us being a continual living sacrifice. For instance, the past two Sundays we were unable to have music.

However, in lieu of music, Carlos and Rich offered up to God a sacrifice of praise the fruit of their lips about how God had spoken to them in Hebrews. Praise is much more than music. It is being a living sacrifice.

**Through Jesus, we are forgiven; we are powerful.
Praise HIM!**

Acts 4:12 (ESV)

There is salvation in no one else, but Jesus, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Pray: Brothers and sisters offer up a sacrifice of praise thankful for the work that has already been completed. Praise God. Jesus is working in all our situations. Praise HIM. Be like Samuel and say, “Speak LORD your servant is listening.” HE will answer! HE is working, guiding, paving the way. HE will never leave us or forsake us. Praise HIM! Dear God as we offer you a sacrifice of praise for moving heaven and earth on our behalf.