

## **THE SACRIFICE OF JOY, THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE**

Ex 19:6 'You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

Rev 1:6 says "And has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen"

### **The Promises of the Priesthood is Now Fulfilled in the Church, the New Covenant Priesthood of Believers**

**God's people under the old covenant brought a blood sacrifice as an offering of worship.**

### **The Function of the Priesthood Was to Offer Sacrifices; its Purpose Was to Minister Unto the Lord by Means of Those Sacrifices**

From the Old Covenant to the New Covenant, **the function and purpose of the priesthood has never changed! We are still commanded to minister unto the Lord with sacrifice, or an offering.**

It says in Hebrews 13:15 that we are **to continually offer a sacrifice of praise unto God, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.**"

**NO LONGER A BLOOD SACRIFICE!** Now **they are to bring a sacrifice of praise giving thanks to His name**. The blood sacrifice has been paid with Jesus' blood and now we are to bring an offering of our praise.

Sometimes it will **cost us to praise Him**. However, **it is something we must do in spite of how we feel.**

**TOO MANY CHRISTIANS TODAY MAKE THE MISTAKE OF SEEKING AN EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN SEEKING GOD. WE MUST LOVE GOD BEYOND JUST OUR FEELINGS.**

**Offer a sacrifice of praise even though there are no answers to prayer, no positive feelings, with everything going wrong.**

We must **learn to rule our feelings and emotions instead of letting them rule us**. Eg. The weather, stock market, home relationships or physical condition.

**It may cost us something to bring our praise to the Lord when we are in the midst of trials, however, as we confess the Word (fruit of our lips), faith is released.**

As we put on praise, it causes us to forget the situations and circumstances that loom as giants before us **and focus our faith upon God.**

Sometimes heaviness of spirit will rob us of God's joy. **We are to put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness** - Is. 61:3

**THE WORD "GARMENT" IN HEBREW SHOWS PRAISE AS MORE THAN A PIECE OF CLOTHING CASUALLY THROWN OVER THE SHOULDERS.**

It teaches us to "wrap or cover" ourselves. **This garment of praise repels and replaces the heavy spirit.**

**David is a great example of a man bringing praise to God in spite of the circumstances surrounding him.**

Psalm 57:7-9 while in the Cave Of Adullam - *"<sup>7</sup> My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. <sup>8</sup> Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. <sup>9</sup> I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples."*

**He had an unshakeable trust in God. This trust enabled him to sing praises during the years of waiting and uncertainty.**

**1 Samuel 30:6** *"And David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord His God."* David was certainly in a depressing situation. So what did he do? - **He encouraged himself in the Lord.**

Once you receive joy from the Lord, you have to [continue to enjoy it.](#)

Psalms 42:5, David says, *"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance. 6. O my God, my soul is cast down within me: Therefore do I remember thee ..."*

The point is this – you and I must [control our emotions.](#)

**Examples of Bible Characters Who Demonstrated Sacrificial Praise To God:**

*Jonah in the whale - Jonah 2:1-10, Paul & Silas in prison - Acts 16:25-31 and David after the numbering of Israel - 2 Sam. 24:24.*

In the natural, none of these men had any reason whatsoever to praise God, however, *they put aside their feelings and brought their praises as an offering to God.*

It was their praises that brought freedom to their own spirit, created faith in their hearts and invited God into their situation.

**WILL YOU PRAISE THE LORD TODAY IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THINGS MAYBE UPSIDE DOWN IN YOUR OWN WORLD?**

**WILL YOU PRAISE THE LORD TODAY, EVEN IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE PRAISING THE LORD.**

**WILL YOU PRAISE THE LORD TODAY EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE GOING THROUGH MANY TRIALS IN YOUR LIFE.**