

Bringing a Sacrifice of Praise 11-16-14
Pastor Peter Smith, Exciting FCOG

“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.”
-Hebrews 13:15, NIV

Praise and Thanksgiving Connection

- Acknowledge God / Honor God
- To be a continual activity in the life of believers
- Discipline of worship in good times and bad times
- Sometimes called a ‘sacrifice’

Sacrifice: First things First! OT vs. NT

OT Sacrifices

Word means “to kill for a purpose”, so for Jews “an offering to give to God”

- To honor God (wave offering, thanksgiving offering)
- Forgiveness of sin
- Approach God
- A cost involved

Place of worship was the Temple which included sacrifice / offerings / death for life

NT Sacrifices

Jesus

- Forgiveness ‘once for all’
- Allowed us to approach God *boldly*
- Cost was Jesus’ life!
- His sacrifice was on purpose, salvation for all

Jesus' Followers

1. **Spiritual** Sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5)

“As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

-our self / will...through worship and devotion (thanksgiving, praise, *choosing to live holy*)

-on behalf of others (model of priests and Jesus)

It means to bring others before God through prayer

-Paul says we are ambassadors for God!

Place of worship is no longer called the Temple (used for sacrifice) but a congregation, the body of believers; our mode of worship became prayer, reading of the Bible, praise and response (living for God). This brings honor to Him.

2. Sacrifices **of Praise** (Heb 13:15)

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

Like Thanksgiving, we are called to praise God always

Our sacrifice in difficult times tells the whole world we belong to God!

Job said, Though he slay me yet will I serve Him!

Praise calls attention to / glorifies God (for our own devotion and in the eyes of others)

- Jesus said “If I be lifted up I will draw all men to myself”.
Praise lifts up Jesus so others can see him!

3. **Living** Sacrifices (Rom. 12:1)

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

As opposed to a ‘dead’ sacrifice, we present to God our ‘life’: how we live, our actions, our conduct

Bodies means ‘whole self’ / all of me...not just words

Reason it’s a sacrifice: it goes against our human drives of ‘self’ 1st!

Are you living as if you were dead?! Paul said,

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
-Gal. 2:20, NIV

‘Sacrifice’ Praise this Week

1. When you are **tired**
 2. When you don’t **feel** like it
- When you are broken & **don’t see** God

"You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."
-Psalm 51:16-17

“I will bless (praise) the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

-Psalm 34:1, NKJV