

The Sacrifices of Thanksgiving

Psalm 107

²¹ Let them praise the LORD for His great love and for the wonderful things He has done for them.

²² Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and sing joyfully about His glorious acts.

Psalm 107:21-22

What are the “sacrifices of thanksgiving” we should offer to God? In God's Word there are **five spiritual sacrifices** you can offer all this month and the rest of your life as unto the Lord. You might want to make a little checklist of these and put it in your Bible.

5 Possible Sacrifices of THANKSGIVING

The Sacrifice Of Your Person

— 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.

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

There are three ways to present yourself as a living sacrifice to the Lord.

- The first thing is to **voluntarily** present yourself.
- Secondly, you must sacrifice yourself **completely**.
- Thirdly, you must sacrifice yourself **committedly** — no jumping off the altar.

When the priests sacrificed animals to God in the Old Testament, they bound the animal to the altar with two flesh hooks because the freshly slaughtered meat would tend to slide off. And there are two flesh hooks that will keep us bound to the altar — devotion and discipline. Our love for Jesus and commitment to keep ourselves holy unto Him will keep us on the altar.

The Sacrifice Of Your Praise

—Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess His name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:15

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Psalm 51:15

We are to offer praise **continually**. Praise to God doesn't commence at a worship service in a church building; instead it continues there. Each day we should live in a continual attitude of praise. The reason some of us do such a poor job of praising God corporately is that we have not been praising Him privately.

The Sacrifice Of Your Prayer

—May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:2

Throughout the Old Testament, we learn that the smoke coming from sacrifices was a “sweet aroma unto the Lord.” These aromas emanated from a great altar of brass in the outer court of the Old Testament tabernacle.

Upon that altar burned a fire kindled from Heaven which was a picture of the holy wrath of God against sin. The animals burned upon that altar were a prophetic picture of Jesus' sacrificial death for our sins. The deepest longings of our hearts are met in the Holy of holies with our Lord. But to enjoy this sweet communion we must first come to the brazen altar of sacrifice, then to the golden altar of prayer — prayer based on the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ.

The Sacrifice Of Your Possessions—*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* Hebrews 13:16

To communicate is more than just talking; it means giving back to God as a spiritual sacrifice the material possessions He has given us. Does your giving show what you think of God? Proverbs says Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase. God doesn't want "a place" in your life. He doesn't even want to be "a priority." The Creator of the universe is so far beyond that! God is outside and above both these realms. God demands **preeminence**.

The Sacrifice Of Your Purity—*My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.* Psalm 51:17

The Bible tells us over and over in the book of Romans that it is the **goodness of God** which leads us to repentance, not the badness of man. Oh, how we ought to bow down before our great God and say, "Oh God, in brokenness and humility, I offer tears of repentance and a sacrifice of thanksgiving. Lord, I confess every sin that has stained my purity. Wash me in Your blood."

Will you sacrifice everything to Him today? Your Person? Praises? Prayers? Possessions? Purity? It's really very simple. Every sacrifice you offer is simply giving back to God what He has already done for you. We give to Him because He first gave unto us.



<u>Financial Update</u>
Total Weekly Budget \$ 12,857.00
Weekly Offering Received November 13, 2016 \$ 5, 306.40

