

## WORD FOR THE DAY: Priesthood

March 9

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...” 1 Peter 2:9*

‘Royal priest’ means a priest to the King. As evangelical protestants living in a democracy we don’t relate very well to this language—we have no real experience with priests or kings. But this truth from Peter is incredible: our royal priesthood implies we have direct access to the very presence of God.

For thousands of years, the people of God were not able to enter the presence of God. It was shut off to them. Only the temple priests could go into the presence of God. But when Jesus was crucified, the temple veil was torn in two—a miracle that occurred to display that now, by way of the cross, believers in Jesus have direct, unfettered access to God.

This declaration of our priesthood is a doctrine we call ***The Priesthood of the Believer***, and as protestants we really like this doctrine because it means we don’t have a human spiritual mediator. We don’t need a special office of people to mediate sacrifices and prayers for us. God has squashed that whole hierarchical system. We are now a kingdom of priests. **YOU ARE A PRIEST.**

But you know what’s also true of the priests? Their life was thoroughly given in service to the people. Their hearts were tuned in to the people. Everything they did, they did with a mind for the spiritual condition of the people. So yes, we are all priests. We don’t need a spiritual authority over us. But that also means we are pouring ourselves out in the service of others. My focus is not just my relationship to God, but your relationship to God.

So the program is consistent: The temple and the priests of the OT were the pathway to knowing God intimately and they still are. The church is the ***new temple*** built by living stones joined together by Jesus Christ. And the ***new priests*** are individual believers acutely aware of the spiritual needs of the people in their midst.

### REFLECTION

- Do you think of yourself as a priest? How can you graciously assist others grow in their relationship with God?

### PRAYER FOR THE DAY

*Father in Heaven, thank you that I have direct access to your throne of grace. Thank you for sending Christ to tear down the wall of separation. I pray you’ll give me greater intimacy with you, and that you’ll give me a heart to serve others so that they can know and love you also. Amen.*