

The Sacrifice of PRAISE

INTRODUCTION

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵you 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....

SO... two questions:

1. What are these “spiritual sacrifices” we are called to offer up?
2. How are we to offer these spiritual sacrifices in a way that is “acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”?

Well, there are several “spiritual sacrifices” taught in the Scriptures, but the first we see in the very context of 1 Peter 2 itself, and that it is the **Sacrifice of Praise**.

Genesis 4—Cain and Abel

1 Peter 2:9

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called (kaleo) you out (ek) of darkness into his wonderful light.

The writer of Hebrews says something very similar:

Hebrews 13:15

¹⁵Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

What is a “sacrifice of praise”? Couple observations:

1. It is spoken or sung out loud
2. It is an open and agreed upon unified profession of God’s character, attributes and works
3. It is continual.

From this, I would make three applications:

This declaration of praise is CORPORATE (Psalm 122:1)

This declaration of praise is EVANGELISTIC (Psalm 96; Matthew 28:19-20)

This declaration of praise is also PERSONAL and CONTINUAL (Hebrews 13:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:16)

How may I worship God more continually?

A huge principle in answering this question is this: **God REVEALS, We RESPOND.**

How has God revealed Himself?

- Through Creation
- Through His Word (Jesus and the Scriptures)
- Through His Spirit

Thus, in order to respond more continually in worship, we need to intentionally and more continually MEDITATE on what God has revealed about Himself as led by the Spirit.

The Biblical Idea of Meditation

A.W. Tozer once wrote: *“We cannot know God by thinking alone, but we can never know Him very well without a lot of hard thinking.”*

“MAPS”—Model for Personal Meditation and Worship

M—Meditation and Memorization

A—Apply

- Head— What am I called to *think* and *believe*?
- Heart—What am I called to *feel* and *be*?
- Hands—What am I called to *do*?

P—Pray

- Praise
- Repent
- Ask
- Yield

S—Share

CHALLENGE: Would you join me in spending 15-30 minutes in the Word this week, using this MAPS model?

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