

In the Presence of His People
(Praise is the Expression of our Devotion)

We sang "Fellowship With You."

That is a prayer. We have to sing it as a prayer, not just as a song. If we give ourselves to fellowship with Him we will make it until the end. There is a covenant. It is greater law than the law of gravity — if we set our mind on the Spirit we will have life and peace.

In Ps 115:16 - 18, we must become a part of the *we*. We are the *we* in verse 18 — we, the people.

Ps 116:1-2 — We love our Master Yahshua because He counted our life precious. That is why He heard our cry. Our praise is our expression of devotion. He has great discernment — He knows whether it is a cry for salvation. Some people come and go. Yahshua inclined His ear to them, but He didn't hear their cry for salvation. They didn't know they were sinners going to death and only one person could save them. Many come and go. More have come and gone than have stayed. We, ourselves, are learning to hear that desperate cry — we are learning whether a person really wants salvation and whether it is a cry from faith.

Verse 4 — *Sovereign* — You are Sovereign; save me.

Verses 12-19 — When we lift up the cup of salvation, that is His blood, we say by lifting it up (only 1 or 2 people lift it up) that we are a drink offering. In the old covenant they made a burnt offering. They cut the animal up, peeling off the fat, and inspected every part. If every part was perfect and healthy they would offer up the sacrifice. One defective part would disqualify the offering. Now we are the body, a living sacrifice. Each part must be perfect, perfectly forgiven, covered by the blood of Yahshua. We never come here with an evil heart. If someone broke bread last night with an evil heart, he is going to die because he is guilty of the body and blood.

Along with the burnt offering they gave a meal offering. Israel was only a type of a generation yet to be born. The meal offering is all your possessions, dreams, hopes, and vision.

The drink offering is a statement that you will serve Him the rest of your life, pour out your life for Him. Only at the end of your life can you say like Paul that it was a drink offering (2 Tim 4:6-8).

Acts 2:42 — devoted to fellowship — *koinonia*, distribution. They were dedicated to the distribution of all their goods. That is the only way community can be formed — to totally depend upon each other, not holding on to anything. There is no fellowship, no community without distribution, sharing.

The drink offering — you are going to serve Him with all your gifts and abilities for the rest of your life, never to go into the world to build it up for anything, but only use it on the community, the kingdom, for *it* to be built up. We are not worthy to lift up the cup of salvation if we are not a drink offering. We would be hypocrites. The drink offering is our life in service. The life is in the blood. We pour out our blood. He did that, but we pour out our blood.

After the meal and drink offering, whenever it was the time, they would give the peace offering, the fellowship meal. They had fellowship because no one was holding on to his life. The anti-type is in the new covenant now. We pour out our life. The reality is here. The altar of God is the community, the Body of Messiah. That is the covenant we are in. 1 Jn 3:17 — We are devoted to the distribution. It's yours; you can keep it, but if you are devoted to our Master, to distribution, you'll give it.

The dead cannot praise — you will go to silence. You won't have fellowship. So many times in the Psalms it says to praise Him in the presence of all His people (Ps 116:14,18).

We have to offer up our sacrifice with thanksgiving according to what Paul said in 1 Tim 2:1-2. We have to offer up our prayers for kings and rulers along with thanksgiving.

Mt 6:14 — It is a sin to hold grudges, to not forgive. Only a person who has been forgiven can forgive. If we can't forgive, our Father won't forgive us. In the assembly we have to stand on level ground (Ps 26:12). There is nothing in us that is going to cause us or others to stumble. Our sins are completely forgiven.

Ps 40:9,10,8,11 — I do not hide Your righteousness in my heart, I speak about it.

Ps 68:26 — When our Master returns we will bless Him without reservation or hindrance. Satan will be bound, cast into the abyss. Of course people can scream their head off at a soccer game because they have all the forces of evil to support them. We are being opposed, but we have the Holy Spirit, who is more powerful than the evil spirits. That is why it says when we are out of fellowship we cannot praise Him, we go down to silence.

Ps 68:28 is in front of the great procession of all the tribes assembling.

Ps 35:15-18 — It is amazing what is in the Psalms. Those are just a few places that talk about giving praise and thanks in front of the whole assembly. It is one thing to give it by yourself and another thing to give it in front of the assembly.

Our Master said that He is not ashamed to call us His brethren, those who praise Him, those who are not ashamed of Him. Ps 22 — Praise is the expression of my devotion. Where does YHWH dwell? On the praises of Israel. He likes to hear true praise from a forgiven people, those who are a drink offering, from those who grind up their possession, grinding them up into one thing, not being like the world. People who are out in the world working for themselves cannot love with God's love, but only with a natural human love. That is accredited to them if they never heard of Yahshua. The love we talk about is the love in the holy city. Divine love is greater than human love.

Let's give thanks to Him in the great assembly.

David knew that Israel couldn't do it. Ps 102:18 — He knew that it would be given to a people yet to be born.

The blood of Yahshua is greater than the blood of any animal. We have that person. He came. We are forgiven now. They were waiting for it. They had to wait in death. Our Father accredited it to them, yet they had to wait until Yahshua rescued them. They had hope, they were in Abraham's bosom.

Isa 28:18-20 says being in death without hope is just like sleeping in a bed that's too short. You can't stretch out your legs. There is no blanket to wrap yourself in. It's cold.

What about if we miss the kingdom? The only way I know I am fit for the kingdom is if I can praise Him. If I can't praise Him there is something holding me back, something that I am hanging on to.