

To Bring a Sacrifice

Back in the days of old Israel they had to bring a sacrifice if they were to continue to have YHWH as their God. When they sinned they had to bring a sacrifice because otherwise they knew He would withdraw from them. And now in the New Covenant we still have the sacrifice, but He's our sacrifice. He replaced all the animals. He sacrifices Himself once. Now we are the very fulfillment of everything the Old Covenant was pointing to — we are the fulfillment. That was only the type; we are the anti-type — we are the fulfillment, and we are to bring a sacrifice also.

We're to bring a sacrifice every day now, even though when we sin He provided that one sacrifice. If we confess our sins He will be merciful to us and forgive us our sins, but after our sins are forgiven we come to the sacrifice. After our sins are forgiven, what do we have in our heart? After our sins are forgiven — if our sins are forgiven and we have nothing against us — what do we have for Him? What does it automatically give us? Thanks! Praise! So everyone here who's been forgiven and knows what forgiveness is — has experienced forgiveness, continually experiences forgiveness — automatically you have praise in your heart. That's the outcome of forgiveness. If we don't have praise, we haven't been forgiven. If we're forgiven we have thanksgiving. When we have sin upon us, when we're guilty, we don't have praise. How can you praise or give thanks when you're guilty? You can't. There's no way. You can say, "Oh, thank you; I praise you," but it's nothing — it's not coming from your heart.

So what do we bring here after we're forgiven? Why is it that we can't pray? Well, of course, we're not forgiven. We still have sin. But if we can pray, we can give thanks. If we do have thanks, we do have praise, that means that we're forgiven. Even Paul talked about that — every time he talked about praise, he said *with thanksgiving*. So therefore prayers can't be heard without thanksgiving. 1 Tim 2:1 says *with thanksgiving*. So we understand that — that's elementary.

We're here to make a sacrifice. What do we come here for? To make a sacrifice. What are you going to take to the sacrifice? What are you going to sacrifice? Well, the only thing we have to take to the sacrifice is what? What we're going to sacrifice. What do we sacrifice? Our praise. Heb 13:15 — We sacrifice our praise. It has to be put on the altar and sacrificed. Why do we sacrifice our praise? Why don't we keep our praise? Why do we have to sacrifice it?

It says it there plain as day — therefore let us go outside to Him who is outside the camp and share His disgrace (Heb 13:13). So therefore we are outside the camp. He's not in Judaism; He's not in Christianity — He's outside the camp. John the Baptist was outside the camp. Anyone who wanted to drink had to go outside to Him. Our Master was outside of Judaism. He began a new nation, a new people. He took the kingdom away from the Jews and gave it to people who were outside of the camp, outside of Judaism. So in the restoration, of course, it would be outside the camp of Christianity (Heb 13:14-15). So in verse 15 it says, "Through Him let us offer a sacrifice of praise."

So since we're forgiven, we have praise, so we have to sacrifice it now. Why do you sacrifice something? Why would you sacrifice anything? Why did our Father sacrifice His Son? He wanted something greater. You only sacrifice something you love to get something you love more. You love your lamb, but you'd rather have forgiveness than your lamb. Do you want to hang on to your lamb or do you want to sacrifice it to get forgiveness and be right with God? Then you have praise to give to God. "I love my lamb; I don't want to sacrifice my lamb." Then you're hanging on to something that doesn't save you.

So if we're forgiven, what do we have? Praise. So what do we have to do with the praise? Sacrifice it. Why do you sacrifice your praise? What do you get that's better? There must be something greater than praise. What is it? You already have forgiveness. What else is there? A relationship with our Father. If we want to have a continual relationship with Him, we sacrifice our praise. So we come and say, "PRAISE YOU!!!! THANK YOU, YAHSHUA!!!!!" That's a sacrifice, if we're forgiven.

If we're not forgiven we come in and try to say, "thank you," and we just can't do it, you know what I mean? Have you ever tried it? That's why we have to sacrifice something that we *have*. Our praise must be sacrifices in order to have something greater — Him. To have Him. So He is the end product of what we get with our praise. Even in Rom 12:1, it says, "present your bodies..." Why do we have to do that? What do we get out of it? We have to get something greater than our bodies that contain our spirit, soul, intellect, and everything else in our bodies — everything that is looking out through our eyeballs. So we sacrifice everything in order to do something. What? What is the end product of offering your body as a living sacrifice? What if we don't do it? What do we gain out of it? Our Father wants us to gain something. What is it? It's the only thing that can please Him. It pleases Him. You continue to please Him.

So anytime a sacrifice is made, it's in order to have something greater. "I exhort you, therefore, brothers, in view of God's mercy...." This will please Him. And if we want to please Him, that's the only way. We can work, work, work, but if we don't offer our body as a living sacrifice, everything we do from here on out is not pleasing. Understand? Because it's a continual burnt offering. So everything we do after this pleases Him because we're doing it in the Spirit. All other things are sacrificed. He is preeminent; He's number one; He is on our mind. We have put our mind on His Spirit. That's the only way that we can please Him. 1 Jn 3:23 — Why does He hear our prayers when we offer our prayers up in our sacrifices? Because it's pleasing to Him. Everything else is a continual burnt offering. This is why we do what we're doing. It's the only way to keep Him from withdrawing Himself from us.

What if we hold onto our praise? What if we have praise, but we hold on to it. What happens to your praise? Pretty soon it dwindles, it goes away. We have to offer it, keep on offering it, offering it every day.

I don't want to hold onto my praise. Some people hold onto their praise. What happens? They don't have any more praise after a while. Their thanksgiving goes away. They eventually lose His presence. He withdraw Himself. So what does James tell us to do? Draw near to Him

and He'll draw near to us. Do we draw near to Him empty-handed? Does He want me to just draw near? Does He want just a dead piece of meat to draw near? No! We draw near with our praise, with our sacrifice of our body. Then He'll draw near to us; He won't withdraw Himself; He'll draw near to us. This is what pleases Him; this is why we're here. Just in case you didn't know why we're here. That's why.

Remember, it says offer your bodies, *plural*, as *one* sacrifice. Offer the members of the Body as one sacrifice. Not many sacrifices, but one. One sacrifice, one offering of praise. That goes up to Him. We do that in our dancing, we do it in our singing, we do it with our lips. It says naturally lips acknowledge and praise His name. Lips — where words come out — vocal chords, lips, words, praise, sound — He really wants it. He doesn't want just a silent praise. He wants noise — a joyful sound to come out. So that's why when we say, "halleluyah," it means you must *all* praise God. That's a command. And those that don't praise, well they go down to silence. The dead can't praise. The unforgiven can't praise. They don't have thanksgiving. Only the forgiven — those who appreciate and value the blood. They know how valuable the blood is because they know that when they confess their sins they are forgiven. They appreciate it. They know the true value of it. That's what *appreciate* means — knowing the value of something. If we don't know the value of the blood, we could confess our sins all day and never feel forgiven because we never know the precious value of the blood. So this is the word of our God. So let's offer up our praise to Him. Let's offer up our praise to Him. Let's offer up our hands. Let's give our voices to Him as a living sacrifice. Don't hold back.