

# The Sacrifice of Praise: The Vow of the Worshiper

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- I. **In Old Testament times, if one received a deliverance, healing or other blessing as a special answer to prayer, he would *demonstrate his thankfulness to Jehovah* by *vowing* to regularly bring one of his best bullocks as a freewill burnt offering to the brazen altar, usually during the three Feasts of Israel.**
  - A. *Numbers 15:3*: “Make an offering by fire . . . a burnt offering . . . in performing a vow . . . in your solemn feasts . . . to make a sweet savor to the Lord.”
  - B. *Deuteronomy 16:10-11*: “And thou shalt keep the Feast of Weeks unto the Lord . . . with a freewill offering . . . according as the Lord hath blessed thee; and thou shalt rejoice before the Lord your God.
  
- II. **David further realized that the regular offering of the animal didn’t satisfy the vow; it was the *spirit of thanksgiving and praise* motivating the animal sacrifice that truly fulfilled the vow (after all, the animal represented the one who had made the vow after receiving God’s mercy).**
  - A. *Psalms 50:14*: “Offer unto God thanksgiving and pay the vows unto the most high.”
  - B. *Psalms 56:12*: “Thy vows are upon me, O God; I will render praises unto thee.”
  
- III. **The vow of praise the the only appropriate response for Christians today, because they are “in Christ” and have received his mercy. (*Romans 12:1*)**
  - A. *1 Peter 2:9-10*: “But you are a . . . royal priesthood . . . that you should show forth *the praises* of Him who has called you out of darkness . . . which in times past were not a people . . . who had not *obtained mercy*.”
  - B. *Hebrews 13:12-15*: Jesus suffered that He might sanctify the people with His own blood . . . “therefore, by Him, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the “fruit” (or “vow”) of our lips to give thanks . . .
  - C. Jesus was not only the “sin offering,” whose blood takes away the sin of the world; He is also the freewill “burnt offering” . . . a sweet-smelling savor that pleases the heart of the Father. (*Ephesians 5:2, John 1:29*)
  
- IV. **When we vow to offer continuous thanksgiving as an on-going part off our Christian lifestyle, we are also allowing the Son to fulfill His ancient vow of praise to the Father!**

A. *John 4:23-24*: True worship began in the Godhead when the Son (the Truth) began to worship the Father with the help of the Spirit.

B. *John 1:1-3*: Worship was the Son's motive for creating everything!

*Revelation 4:11*: “. . . for thou (the Son) hast created all things, and for thy pleasure (the Father's) they are and were created (by the Son).

C. *Psalm 22:22, 25*: In this Messianic Psalm we hear the pre-incarnate Christ speaking in the first person and making the remarkable statement that, when we gather together for praise, we give Him the opportunity to fulfill His vow of praise to the Father!

D. *Hebrews 13:15*: “By Him (Christ Jesus) let us offer the sacrifice of praise . . .”

E. *1 Thessalonians 5:18*: “Give thanks . . . for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

F. *Psalm 56:12*: “Thy vows are upon me, O God; I will render praises unto thee.”

**V. We can fulfill our vow of praise in the following ways:**

A. *Psalm 108:13*: By fixing our heart (vowing) to praise the Lord in song the first thing in the morning (or anytime).

B. *Psalm 66:13*: By being gathered into God's house (the church) at the appointed time to praise the Lord. (*Jeremiah 33:10-11*)

C. *Psalm 61:8*: By singing praise throughout the day. “So will I sing praise unto thy name forever, that I may daily perform my vows.”

D. *Psalm 119:164*: “Seven times a day do I praise thee . . .”

**VI. From Psalm 65 we can see that there are many beneficial results that flow from a people that will enter into the vow of praise:**

A. Answered prayer (verse 2)

B. Deliverance from sin and uncleanness (verse 3).

C. The visitation of God's latter rain (verse 9).

D. The river of God (prophecy and gifts of the Spirit) (verse 9).

E. Corn (revelation of the Word) (verse 9).

F. Pastures clothes with flocks (church growth!) (verse 13).

G. The joy of the Lord (verse 13).

H. The song of the Lord (verse 13).

**VII. Because praise and worship is to be a vow in our lives unto the Father, the fundamental basis for such praise is not emotion but the decisiveness of our will; biblical praise is offered because of the decision to do so; not because we are impelled or compelled by the Holy Spirit to do so.**

A. Because true praise is a decision, ultimately, it is the act of the **human will** that pleases the Lord.

1. *Psalm 138:1*: “I **will** praise thee with my whole heart; before the gods **will** I sing praise to thee.

2. *Psalm 144:9*: “I **will** sing a new song unto thee, O God . . . “

B. Since praise is an act of the human will and does therefore not depend upon a special emotion or “leading” of the Holy Spirit, praise can be offered at any time in any place, in fact, we are exhorted in Scripture to offer praise **continually**, just as we are also to “pray without ceasing.” (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*)

1. *Psalm 34:1*: “I will bless the Lord **at all times**, his praise shall **continually** be in my mouth.”

2. *Psalm 146*: “While I live **will** I praise the Lord; I **will** sing praises unto my God while I have my being.”

3. *Psalm 145: 1, 2*: “I **will** extol thee, my God, O king, and I **will** bless thy name **for ever and ever**. Every day **will** I bless thee; and I **will** praise thy name **for ever and ever**.”

4. *Hebrews 13:15*: “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God **continually** . . . “

5. *1 Thessalonians 2:13*: “For this cause also **thank we God without ceasing** . . .

C. Praise is to become a lifestyle; it is to become the very atmosphere that we breathe, indeed the atmosphere of heaven itself, whose very surroundings are permeated continually with praise and worship!

**VIII. As we exercise our vow of praise before the Lord, certain wonderful results occur:**

A. As we bless the Lord, He blesses us! “Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord. The Lord that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.” (*Psalm 134:2, 3*)

B. As we seek Him in praise and worship, He correspondingly seeks us! “. . . for the Father seeketh such (worshippers) to worship Him . . .” (*John 4:23*)

C. Therefore the desire of God for us to bless Him is so that He can pour Himself out upon us in blessing and anointing, a glorious divine cycle of communion!

