

## **Our Spiritual Sacrifices (1 Peter 2:4-6)**

**Introduction:** *What are the spiritual sacrifices we're supposed to offer?*

You are true priests who make true offerings. And these "spiritual sacrifices" are the offerings which God really wanted the whole time. God never cared about bulls and goats.

### **1. Prayers [with supplications, intercessions, and thanksgiving] (1Tim 2:1-2, 8)**

*"...that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made..."* (1Tim 2:1).

As our High Priest "*offered up prayers and supplications*" (Heb 5:6-7, see Rev 5:8). Prayer is usually made standing with lifted hands (v. 8, see Neh 8:6), and while other worshippers bow or "bow with their faces to the ground," though occasionally kneeling (1Ki 8:54[2Chr 6:13], 1Ki 19:18[to Baal, Rom 11:4], Ezr 9:5, Ps 95:6, Isa 45:23 [Rom 14:11], Dan 6:10, Matt 27:29[soldiers in jest, Mk 15:19], Eph 3:14, Phil 2:10). There is *divine power* in prayer (Matt 7:7, Jer 33:3, 1Tim 2:4)

### **2. Singing of Psalms (1Cor 14:26)**

*"Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm..."* (1Cor 14:26).

This is a spiritual sacrifice. "Therefore by Him let us continually *offer the sacrifice of praise* to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Heb 13:15), with divine power and blessing. "Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms" (Eph 5:18-19, see Col 3:16, 1Cor 14:26).

### **3. Reading, preaching, and heart-felt hearing of God's Word (1Tim 4:13)**

*"Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching"* (1Ti 4:13, ESV).

"On this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word" (Isa 66:2). "For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I *would* give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart -- These, O God, You will not despise" (Ps 51:16-17). This is "the power of God for salvation" (Rom 1:16, see Rom 10:17, Acts 20:32, Jer 23:29, Psa 107:20).

### **4. The Lord's Supper [and occasionally Baptism] (1Cor 11:13-20)**

*"When you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper"* (1Co 11:20)—though is ought to be! See also Acts 20:7.

This is sharing and partaking of the sacrifice—spiritually, "Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? ... You cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons" (1Co 10:16-21, see 1Cor 11:29-31). Here is divine power. It is "the cup of blessing which we bless ... coming together ... for the better." Compare baptism (Acts 2:38-39).

**Other things: NO** (*except occasional vows, and solemn fasts or feasts of thanksgiving*).

What about dancing (Ps 149, 150)? Is this for when we come together in worship? See 149:5-6, 150:6. And don't let anyone recklessly import Old Covenant worship practices from before "the time of reformation" (Heb 9:9-10).