

# THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

PSALM 135:1-3 | HEBREWS 13:15

The terms “sacrifice “and praise” might seem to be opposites. We think of sacrifice as offering something at great cost of ourselves. Praise on the other hand, sounds joyful as it bubbles from a grateful heart. However, in the spiritual realm, sacrifice and praise are intertwined. It takes an act of the will to lay our all on the altar before God when we don’t understand. When we bring a “sacrifice of praise,” we choose to believe that, even though life is not going as we think it should, God is still good and can be trusted. When we choose to praise God in spite of storms, He is honored, and our faith grows deeper.

1. Our praise of God is not to be based on \_\_\_\_\_ of His job performance.

Praise cannot be treated as a reward we give God for His obvious blessings.

*Isaiah 29:13 (NKJV)*<sup>13</sup> Therefore the Lord said: “Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

2. Real praise continues regardless of \_\_\_\_\_.

It flows from a worshiping heart in good times and bad.

*Acts 16:23-25 (NKJV)*<sup>23</sup> And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.<sup>24</sup> Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

3. The sacrifice of praise comes from a \_\_\_\_\_.

It rises from a spirit that has chosen to honor God in spite of the pain that life is causing.

4. The fruit of lips is \_\_\_\_\_ praise to God for His goodness.

Christ filters our praise and gives it to the Father so that it is pleasing to Him.

*Philippians 4:18 (NKJV)*<sup>18</sup> Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

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