

Hebrews 13:15 – “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.”

PRAYER AS A SACRIFICE

Under the Old Covenant sacrifices were necessary to maintain fellowship with God. Under the New Covenant, God desires praise and thanksgiving rather than animal sacrifices. Under the New Covenant all believers are priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9). We are to bring offerings of praise and thanksgiving. Our praises pass through Jesus before they reach the Father. The sacrifice of praise is the fruit of our lips. Under the law, the grain offering was a praise offering. It was a thanksgiving for the atonement provided by blood offerings (Leviticus 2:1). We are to offer praise to God continually. Jesus’ offering for our sins completed the symbolic prophetic offerings of the Old Covenant. God was never pleased with offerings of animals (Psalm 40:6-8). They provided a temporary covering for sins. “Where there is remission of sins, there is no longer an offering for sin” (Hebrews 10:18). The only offering left is praise for Christ’s atonement. As believers, we are to offer sacrifices of praise as often as the Old Testament priests offered animal sacrifices. That means continually. If you want to glorify God, give continual thanks for the cross of Christ. You can’t honor God more than to praise Him for your salvation. “In everything give thanks” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).