

I Peter 2:5 – “You...are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

#### PRAYER AS A SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE

The church has lost its way when it comes to prayer. Preaching, teaching, worship, and fellowship are all important, but never should they take the place of prayer. The church is a temple, a house of prayer. Believers are priests of the New Covenant. Priests talk to God for the people. You may not be called to teach or preach; you are called to pray. As offerings were offered to God under the Old Covenant, prayers are to be offered to God in the New. I was once advised to not spend much time praying in home Bible studies, because people won't come. That may be true. It is more likely that different people will come if we pray as we should. Churches today don't share much resemblance to the churches in the Book of Acts. Until churches see themselves as a praying priesthood, they will be a ghastly reflection of the original article. Until Christians are taught, encouraged, and led by their leaders to pray, we will be a cheap imitation of the apostolic church. For a church to function as a spiritual house and for believers to function like priests, prayer must be restored to its rightful place when saints gather. The church was born with 120 people in prayer. After the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, the church continued in prayer (Acts 5:42). The leaders of the church at Antioch prayed before sending Paul and Barnabas on a mission trip. The church prayed when Peter was thrown into prison. Prayer was a lifestyle then. It is out of style now. Would you be willing to do something about it? Commit to making prayer your lifestyle. Pray, and invite other Christians to pray with you. If your church doesn't have a prayer meeting, offer to start one. Pray with people on the spot when you find out they need prayer. When a brother or sister asks you to pray for them, do it then. Talk to your pastor about your concerns. Pray for your pastor and the leaders of the church. Keep at it until prayer becomes part of the culture of your church. You don't have to preach or teach, but please pray. Start offering sacrifices.