

## **Offer up Spiritual Sacrifices** **1 Peter 2:4–5 (NKJV)**

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,  
5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament the work of the priests was a very laborious job.

The offering of all the animals was labor intensive day after day.

Sometimes thousands of animal were to be sacrifice and the great feasts that they celebrated.

But our Savior put an end to all of that with His own sacrifice on the cross.

The Priest Himself became the sacrifice, to offering for sin as well as the priest.

Does not mean that we as priests have nothing to do.

Do we think our job is to sit and soak. That we just come, occupy a pew and put everything in neutral.

You know what neutral is don't you? It means the system is on and the motor is running but you are not going anywhere.

No, that is not the Christian's position. We are priests, active priests involved in offering up sacrifices, spiritual though they be.

One commentator said that when translating this we should use offerings rather than sacrifices for in the pagan and primitive parts of our world the idea of sacrifice has the idea of slaying an animal.

So although our sacrifices are bloodless offerings yet they should involve something that cost us something.

This means that to offer spiritual sacrifices is actually more difficult than to offer up a lamb.

- I. The first sacrifice that we should offer up is our own body.
  - A. Romans 12:1 (NKJV)
    1. 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
    2. How can this be done?
  - B. Romans 12:2 (NKJV)
    1. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2. Don't think the world's thoughts.
3. Don't pursue the world's goals.
4. Don't long for the world's pleasures.
5. But pursue God's will, His way, His mind.

C. Romans 6:13 (NKJV)

1. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

D. After the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70, the Jews accentuated the OT passages which advocate non-animal sacrifices (cf. Ps. 50:14, 51:16, 69:30–31, 107:22, 141:2; Hos. 14:2). Hebrews 13:5 reflects this type of Christian sacrifice. *Robert James Dr. Utley, The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter, vol. Volume 2, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 229.*

1. Psalm 50:14 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>14</sup> Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High.

2. Psalm 51:16 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>16</sup> For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt offering.

3. Psalm 69:30-31 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>30</sup> I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving. <sup>31</sup> *This* also shall please the LORD better than an ox *or* bull, Which has horns and hooves.

4. Psalm 107:22 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>22</sup> Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing.

5. Hosea 14:2 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>2</sup> Take words with you, And return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; Receive *us* graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.

II. Worship or praise

A. The Bible is filled with this type of spiritual sacrifice.

1. Psalm 83:18 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>18</sup> That they may know that You, whose name alone *is* the LORD, *Are* the Most High over all the earth.
2. Psalm 86:5 (NKJV)
  - a. <sup>5</sup> For You, Lord, *are* good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.
3. Psalm 86:10 (NKJV)
  - a. <sup>10</sup> For You *are* great, and do wondrous things; You alone *are* God.
4. Psalm 90:2 (NKJV)
  - a. <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You *are* God.
5. Psalm 92:15 (NKJV)
  - a. <sup>15</sup> To declare that the LORD is upright; *He is* my rock, and *there is* no unrighteousness in Him.
6. Psalm 99:9 (NKJV)
  - a. <sup>9</sup> Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the LORD our God *is* holy.
7. Psalm 102:26-27 (NKJV)
  - a. <sup>26</sup> They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. <sup>27</sup> But You *are* the same, And Your years will have no end.
8. Psalm 117:1-2 (NKJV)
  - a. <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! <sup>2</sup> For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the LORD *endures* forever. Praise the LORD!
9. Psalm 119:68 (NKJV)
  - a. <sup>68</sup> You *are* good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes.
10. Psalm 139:1-7 (NKJV)
  - a. <sup>1</sup> O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. <sup>2</sup> You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup> You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. <sup>5</sup> You have

hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.* <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

11. Psalm 145:1-9 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>1</sup> I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. <sup>3</sup> Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness *is* unsearchable. <sup>4</sup> One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. <sup>5</sup> I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works. <sup>6</sup> *Men* shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness. <sup>7</sup> They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness. <sup>8</sup> The LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. <sup>9</sup> The LORD *is* good to all, And His tender mercies *are* over all His works.

12. Isaiah 44:6 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>6</sup> “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I *am* the First and I *am* the Last; Besides Me *there is* no God.

13. Romans 11:33 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!

14. 1 Timothy 1:17 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>17</sup> Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

B. Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)

1. <sup>15</sup> 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.

III. The good works that we do for others.

A. Hebrews 13:16 (NKJV)

1. <sup>16</sup> But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

B. Galatians 5:13 (NKJV)

1. <sup>13</sup> For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

C. 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

1. <sup>8</sup> And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

D. Titus 3:8 (NKJV)

1. <sup>8</sup> This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

IV. Giving and benevolence

A. Philippians 4:10-20 (NKJV)

1. <sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. <sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. <sup>15</sup> Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. <sup>16</sup> For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. <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. <sup>19</sup> And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

B. Mark 12:42–44 (NKJV)

1. <sup>42</sup> Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. <sup>43</sup> So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; <sup>44</sup> for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

C. 2 Corinthians 8:1–4 (NKJV)

1. <sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed

on the churches of Macedonia: <sup>2</sup> that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. <sup>3</sup> For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, <sup>4</sup> imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

V. The people we win to Christ are spiritual sacrifices.

A. Romans 15:16 (NKJV)

1. <sup>16</sup> that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

VI. Our own Sacrificial love for one another

A. 1 Peter 4:8 (NKJV)

1. <sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “*love will cover a multitude of sins.*”

B. Mark 12:33 (NKJV)

1. <sup>33</sup> And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

C. Hebrews 6:10 (NKJV)

1. <sup>10</sup> For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

VII. Prayer is also a spiritual sacrifice.

A. Revelation 8:3–4 (NKJV)

1. <sup>3</sup> Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup> And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.

B. Psalm 141:2 (NKJV)

- a. <sup>2</sup> Let my prayer be set before You *as* incense, The lifting up of my hands *as* the evening sacrifice.

C. 1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

1. <sup>7</sup> But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in

your prayers.

D. Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

1. <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

E. Philippians 4:6 (NKJV)

1. <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

VIII. Acceptable to God

- A. If we do any of this for our own pleasure or glory, then it will not be accepted as a spiritual sacrifice. *Warren W. Wiersbe*
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We ought to give our bodies to Him as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1–2), as well as the praise of our lips (Heb. 13:15) and the good works we do for others (Heb. 13:16). The money and other material things we share with others in God’s service is also a spiritual sacrifice (Phil. 4:10–20). Even the people we win to Christ are sacrifices for His glory (Rom. 15:16). We offer these sacrifices through Jesus Christ, for only then are they acceptable with God. If we do any of this for our own pleasure or glory, then it will not be accepted as a spiritual sacrifice. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 401–402.*