

Spiritual Sacrifices and Offerings in Action

God's Word tells all true Christians that we are called to be a spiritual house, and holy priesthood; and that we are expected to offer up spiritual sacrifices, which are acceptable to God, by Jesus Christ, which is our High Priest. (*1 Peter 2: 5*) (*Hebrews 10: 21*)

The sacrifices and offerings that God required of his people, of the nation of Israel, which were offered according to the ritualistic law in the old testament of the Holy Bible, were not the end goal of them; but were only a shadow of good things to come. (*Hebrews 10: 1, 2*) Therefore in New Testament times; because Spiritual Israel (*Christians*) do have the Holy Spirit to lead them into truly fulfilling the law in the spiritual intent; therefore those sacrifices that were only a shadow of the real sacrifices, have been replaced with different and much more valuable sacrifices and offerings.

I personally challenge all true Christians to re-read and study the Book of Hebrews; It is a real gold mine; and as you do, please notice that Jesus Christ fulfilled all of the sacrifices which pertained to the cleansing of us from our sins and guilt. We are not qualified to make that great sacrifice and offering for ourselves or anyone else. Jesus Christ has done that sacrifice for all humanity who will truly surrender their lives over in submission and obedience to God, after they have been called and had their minds illuminated by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Now with that being understood: I ask, concerning the spiritual house and holy priesthood that we true Christians are: What

are the spiritual sacrifices and offerings that God desires for us to give?
(1 Peter 2: 5)

If you will continue to read and study Peters writing, you will see that he spells out what kind of spiritual sacrifices that he is referring to. *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth **the praises** of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* (1 Peter 2: 9) How do we do that? There is much said in the holy scriptures about how we should give praise to God with our lips in song and prayer, and I plan to give some very valuable insight into that later on in this writing, but first we need to continue to understand, so that we may practice the acceptable sacrifices that Peter is writing about here in 1st Peter. Peter is not just talking about **speaking of** the wonderful things that show some of the glory and praiseworthy attributes of God and Christ; But here Peter is talking about **living and practicing** the humble, patient, loving, forgiving, obedient way of Christ, even when we are persecuted, reviled, and spoken evil of, being falsely accused.

We true Christians who have studied the Holy Scriptures, can see that there were some of the sacrifices in the Old Testament ritualistic law that foreshadowed only the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who was to pay the death penalty for all mankind who will eventually have their minds illuminated by God’s Spirit and Word, so that they are given faith in God and Christ and their gospel message. When these “called” of God people are truly repentant of their rebellion against God and his Commandments, then completely surrender their lives over to God and Christ to let them lead them out of all their sin against God and man; then the sacrifice of Christ is applied in payment for their sins and guilt, so that with a cleansed conscience they may live the remainder of their lives in submission to God and Christ and their Holy Spiritual Laws, even the Ten Commandments.

These converted people must trust in complete faith that God accepts Christ’s sacrifice in payment for their own past sins and even those that they will yet commit (*but repent of*) as a result of their immaturity in the growth process to completely become like Christ our Lord and Savior, without sin or sinful nature.

Understand though that this grace and pardon of God is not a license to continue willfully and intentionally in sin, as many hypocrites teach.

Now with the above sacrifice of Christ being understood; there remain other sacrifices of the Old Testament ritualistic law which foreshadow real spiritual sacrifices to be offered by truly converted Christians. Some of these sacrifices were voluntary freewill offerings, but many of them were required sacrifices. These were the sacrifices which foreshadowed the spiritual sacrifices which Peter was referring to. (*1 Peter 2: 5*)

It's not easy or natural to human nature to take it patiently, when we are mistreated by others, especially when we know that we are in the right. It is the natural nature to become angry and defensive, lashing out at, and even embittered against those people who have falsely accused us, or unjustly treated us; but Peter is inspired by God to tell us that we should take this wrongful treatment patiently, even as our Lord did in suffering wrong treatment for us, and just commit the keeping of our souls to God in well doing, knowing that he is a faithful Creator, and that he cares about us and will reward us with that crown of glory in due season if we remain faithful. (*1pet. 2: 19-23*), (*1 Pet. 4: 19*), (*1 Pet. 5: 4-7*) Peter was inspired by God to let us know that patiently bearing wrong treatment for doing well is a kind of sacrifice that is acceptable to God. (*1 Pet. 2: 20*) (*This is also a required sacrifice, and not just a freewill offering.*)

It is obvious that this kind of evil treatment of saints who are only doing well is mostly carried out by those who are in some position of authority or power in this world's system. It may be by government leaders of states or nations; or it may be in any number of lesser positions of authority, even such as a foreman or supervisor of your job in which you earn your living; it may even be someone such as an unrighteous ordained leader in the church government, or even a harsh unloving mate. Whoever it may be that would mistreat one of God's saints; we are expected to bear it patiently, while trusting in God to look after our best interest. This is what it is talking about in 1Peter 2: 23 where it states that Christ *committed himself to him that judges righteously*; also chapter 4, verse 19: "Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God, *commit the keeping*

of their souls to him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator”. It is God’s judgment of us that we should be most concerned about, and not fret ourselves over the evil judgment of the ungodly of this world.

We have to keep in mind that our ultimate hope and reward is not of this world, but of God in his kingdom. Jesus endured the cross and all that it involved, because he was looking forward to the Joy that is set before him in his fathers and his kingdom. (*Heb. 12: 2, 3*) So must we also do, even in trials, persecutions, and temptations? “For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest you be wearied and faint in your minds. You have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.” (*Hebrews 12: 3, 4*) The above statement is true of us saints that are still alive, but many of our brethren of past ages did go on to resist sin unto blood. Brethren it is very likely that we also may have to prove ourselves in that manner!

Opportunities to Sacrifice Will Come

All true followers of Christ need to consider that Jesus Christ our Lord, and also the true Christians of most ages of this world have not lived in a nation where they had the freedom that is afforded to us who are living in the United States of America. God had granted to our Forefathers of this nation the wisdom, understanding, and desire to live according to their own individual consciences toward God; so that they founded this nation based on freedom, and Godly moral values to the best of their understanding. God Almighty purposed this also to accomplish his own purpose in fulfilling his promise to make of Manasseh (Joseph’s oldest son) the single greatest nation on earth, as was prophesied. To understand these things more completely I strongly suggest that you read the book titled, *“The United States and Britain in Prophecy”*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.

This nation also had to be free, and the most powerful nation on earth; so it could defend the freedom of all freedom loving peoples; so that this nation could be used as the central hub of God’s end time work of proclaiming the true Gospel about the Kingdom of God to all nations again in this end time, even as our Lord

Jesus said would be done before his second coming to this world, to establish and set up that kingdom which will rule rightly over all nations. (*Matt. 24: 14*) This preaching and publishing of God's true gospel message throughout the world, has been accomplished by God's end time Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong. It will continue to be proclaimed by God's faithful saints who love the gospel, as long as we are able to do so.

We faithful will continue to teach this gospel to those who will desire to hear it, ***even if we suffer for it.*** Many will desire the truth in times of great tribulation. The faithful saints of God will give it to them *even if we lose our lives for doing so.* Our brethren of past ages did, and we are no better than them. **God will know that his Spirit born priesthood of the world tomorrow is dedicated with their whole hearts and even with their blood, as our Savior, as well as his Apostles and many faithful saints of past ages were.** The Royal Priesthood of God will not be hired shepherds, but they will all be totally dedicated to serve God and his people out of true love and righteousness. They will be invested in their office and people, with their whole hearts and many with their own blood.

Brethren I write this reminder for us all to consider how God expects us to behave even in times when we are falsely accused and mistreated. Those evil days are fast approaching! We need to be training our minds and hearts to be able to offer up these spiritual sacrifices that will be required of us. As you brethren are fully aware of; this nation, The United States of America is prophesied to go into national captivity and slavery along with other Israelite nations shortly before Christ comes back. Remember also that when the United States of America has lost its freedom; there will be no free nation on this earth.

The people of this nation have not used their freedom to do well, but have strayed far away from the more godly values that our founding fathers hoped that we would continue to live by. This nation has used their freedom to do and promote all manner of evil behavior. This evil behavior is "snowballing downhill" with each generation. The religion of this nation was founded in protest against Mystery Babylon (*Rev. 17*). The original Protestants did have much more godly moral values than they do today, but they also continued on in much of their

whore mother Church's pagan doctrines, which have Christian sounding names on them, including the substitution of Sunday instead of the Sabbath. I believe that some of the original Protestants were sincerely, in a self-righteous kind of way, trying to get back to much of the biblical truth, but with each new generation they have strayed farther away from Christ's truth and righteousness. What is called Christianity in this nation today is none other than false Christianity. It is an imposter! These protestant churches are none other than the daughters of their mother, Mystery Babylon which is written about in Revelation Chapter 17.

Today, not many people in this nation even hold to the decency and the morals of the founding fathers of this nation; but there is a lot of hypocrisy. Therefore as a result of the continued increase of sins and wickedness in this nation; God is allowing our enemies to take control of our national government, and enslave the American peoples. This people is facing the worst time of trouble that has ever been brought on any nation. This captivity and slavery is also coming on our brother nation Britain (*Ephraim*). All of the Israelite nations of this world is about to lose their freedom and be brought into captivity and slavery because of their sins and rebellion against the Eternal God. God has plans to let their captors humble them, and break their proud, vain, and stubborn self-will. Many of them will then truly and honestly seek the true God and be willing to take on the yoke of Christ. Christ said his yoke is light. (*Matt. 11: 29*) I personally know that is true. But the yoke that is about to be put on our peoples is very heavy.

Just like as God arranged for Israel to go down into Egypt, and be humbled by the Egyptians, so that they would be willing to follow Moses and his God out of Egypt and become God's chosen nation; so also is modern day Israel about to be taken captive, enslaved, and treated evil so that they also will be willing to turn to the true God in sincerity and truth. God will then deliver them out of their captivity, and establish them in their own land that God gave to our Forefathers when he brought them out of Egypt. You should read and study this marvelous true story in Jeremiah Chapter 30 and Chapter 31. Again I also recommend that all true followers of Christ should read and study Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's book titled, "*The United States and Britain in Prophecy*". You can find this book

on the internet. Need I also remind you that time is running out on us to be free to search for, and study the truth?

Even the truly called servants of Christ will be tried, and purged of their own unrighteousness, by experiencing living under the evil tyranny of this coming “new world order”. (*Daniel 11: 31-35*) This seventh resurrection of the Beast Empire, which is dominated over by the Catholic Church, and its popes will force all to be in compliance with their religious teaching, including violating the Sabbath, and resting on Sunday. Those who will not obey them, but choose to obey God will not be allowed to buy or sell. Their electronic bank account will be stopped. With no paper or coin money in use at that time; it will be impossible to buy or sell. True Christians and those who will be converted in those days will have to rely on God for their most basic needs.

In those days, the people of the United States of America will no longer be in control of their own lives, but will be slaves to these evil tyrants. Just as a wild stallion does not easily take to being rode; so also it will be with the American and British Peoples. Many will fight to their death against this evil tyranny, but this correction is ultimately from Almighty God. America and Britain will lose to these evil tyrants, and this will be the worse time of tribulation ever to come on this earth, since there ever was a nation. (*Daniel 12: 1*), (*Matthew 24: 21, 22*) True Christians should not allow ourselves to take up arms to try and preserve our freedom; Christ is our hope and freedom, even if we must die for it. Remember, suffering evil for only doing well is an acceptable sacrifice that we are required to offer.

Friends and brethren understand this: When God punishes his people; he does so with a purpose in mind. God doesn't just punish his people with this coming captivity just to vent his anger on them. God wants his people to repent of their sinful rebellion against their Creator God, so that he can bless them with his perfect and holy righteous way of life. God desires that man live by his Holy Laws so that things will go well with us in our relationships with people as well as with our God. Study and meditate on the way that people live, and consider that **all** of mans troubles, sorrows, pains, grief, anguish of heart, strife and division, broken

marriages, juvenile delinquents, crime, and ignorance of God and his purpose for our existence; all of this is a direct result of not obeying God and his Holy Ten Commandments. Friends and brethren, there can be no peace or unity between peoples unless we practice living according to God's perfect Law. And unless we can learn to live in peace and unity with each other, then God will not give us the gift of eternal life. (*Romans 6: 23*)

It is because of the pleasantness and goodness of brethren dwelling together in unity and peace that motivated God to make eternal life available to those who do love and obey God and live according to his laws. (*Psalms 133*) God knows the results of sin, which is the transgression of Gods Holy Commandments, (*1 John 3: 4*) and in his mercy he would not allow Adam and Eve to have access to the tree of life after that they had chosen to disobey God. Eternal life is forever! Since sin produces painful and evil results, and gets worse continually; eternal life in sin would be worse than what the false Christianity teaches about eternal life in "Hell". Therefore God in his wisdom and mercy set aside six thousand years, typical of the six work days in a week, (*Hebrews Ch. 4*), (*2 Peter 3: 8*) for Adam and all his descendants to experience living a short temporary life in the flesh; so that they could experience the results of their way of living contrary to God. At the end of those six millennial days, God would send his son Jesus Christ back at his second coming to establish his kingdom on this earth, and to rule it according to his Holy Law, and Holy Spirit, and Word. This seventh millennial day is a Sabbath of **Rest** to put an end to the unrighteous works of man, and to bind the devil so that he can't deceive man during that 1000 year Sabbath Rest. (*Rev. 20: 1-3*)

After people have tasted of the evil results of their own way in their first lifetime; it should be easier for many to choose to submit to God and his way when they are resurrected back to mortal life in that judgment period, which will take place after the millennial Sabbath Day. Then they will have their calling, and chance at salvation through Jesus Christ. After having been allowed to experience their own way in sin for their first life; then when they are resurrected back to mortal life again and are offered salvation if they will surrender to obey God; then they will be able to make *a more educated decision*, having experienced sin and

its evil results; compared to the wise loving and merciful way of God which leads to peace, happiness, unity, prosperity, and divine blessings.

For the majority of mankind, God has not been judging them yet, for they are in ignorance of God. God has not “called” them yet. Jesus said, “If any man hears my words, and believes not, I judge him not :”(*that is not yet*). (*John 12: 47*) The next verse, 48: Jesus tells us that his words shall judge him in the last day. The truth is that there is coming one judgment day for those who are alive at the end of this evil age, and another judgment day pictured by “The Last Great Day” **after** the one thousand year Sabbath, which is pictured by the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles. In that judgment day all of the dead people who have lived and died throughout history, not having yet been “called” by God to actually know God, and be judged; they will be resurrected to physical mortal life in the flesh, and still subject to the second death, because some may still choose to continue to rebel against God.

These multitudes of resurrected physical people shall then be given their calling and judgment period, even as the specially called out first fruits, the Church of God are being judged in this age. (*Rev. 20: 11-13*), (*Ezekiel Chapter 37*) For the majority of mankind, it is appointed for them to live and die in the flesh before they are brought into judgment, and given their opportunity to qualify for the gift of eternal life. (*Heb. 9: 27*) The eighth day after the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles is a shadow of this Last Great Day, in which the uncalled dead people throughout history will be resurrected and called. They will have God make his self known to them, and **open the books of the Holy Bible to their understanding**, and give them their first real opportunity to truly be converted to Christ and God.

That is why the Children of Israel were commanded to circumcise their sons on the eighth day. Circumcision in the flesh is a type of circumcision of the heart, which is true conversion to Christ. (*Romans 2: 28, 29*) The Majority of mankind is not called to be a part of the small first fruit harvest of the Church of God in this age. Real true Christians, *first fruits* who are faithful and will be in the first resurrection will only be 144000 total from all ages. (*Rev. 14: 1-5*) The majority of

people of past ages including the ancient nation of Israel will be spiritually circumcised in the heart in the fulfillment of the eighth day of the feast, which is the resurrection to judgment after the millennial Sabbath Day. (*Revelations 20: 5, 11, 12*) That is when they will be called and judged by Christ's words as is mentioned in John Chapter twelve. That is when "the books" of the bible, *Christ's words* will be opened up to their understanding; and then they will be judged by those words of Christ, even as the called first fruit Church of God is in this age. The Book of Life will be opened up to them also so that they may have their names written in it if they surrender to Christ in truth and receive of his Holy Spirit, thus impregnating them with eternal life.

I need also to mention here that a judgment of Christ is going to be on the people who live in the last days of this world. Many will repent and turn to Christ as a result of the great tribulation, captivity, slavery, and destruction that is to come on the end time tribes of Israel, including the United States of America. The whole world is about to experience the worst time of trouble that has ever been on this earth since man has been here. (*Daniel 12: 1*) Those who do repent of their sins and rebellion against God and his laws, and surrender their lives over to Christ will be allowed to live as mortals over into the Millennial Sabbath Day, pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, and also pictured by the weekly Sabbath Day. Christ will feed them his good word, and will lead them unto fountains of living waters, which is a type of the Holy Spirit of God. (*Rev. 7: 9-17*) Then during the Millennial Sabbath, Christ will be wiping away their tears and sorrows, for it is their sins that have caused them such pain, grief, sorrow, anguish, and hurt. When they start obeying Christ; then they will start experiencing the goodness of God's way, and the hope, happiness and joy that it brings into our lives. The tears and sorrow will begin to disappear. You can read of these people in the seventh chapter of Revelation, beginning in verse 9.

God's Royal and Holy Priesthood which true Christians are; will be helping Christ, ruling and serving the people of that millennium with the true and right way, according to the laws of God and Christ. (*Rev. 1: 6*), (*Rev. 20: 6*), (*Rev. 2: 26, 27*) Christ and his saints will rule with a shepherd's rod of iron, which symbolizes unwavering strength and might; but it will also be a rule tempered with God's

love and mercy, as good shepherds; however there will not be allowed in that world those who willfully rebel against God and his saints. No devil will be around during that Millennial Sabbath to deceive and mislead the people. They will be tested at the end of that Millennium though. (*Rev. 20: 1-3*) Because of Satan being released at the end of that millennium to test the people, whether they will remain faithful; it seems to indicate that the people, who love God and his way of life, may live throughout that one thousand year period as mortal humans. In the first millennium of mans existence; some lived near to one thousand years, but they did all die in that day, (*millennium*) just as God had told Adam would happen when they sinned.

Friends and brethren, it may appear to you that I have digressed from the original purpose of this writing about spiritual sacrifices and offerings, but I believe that God has led me to discuss this matter of Israel's captivity and enslavement, as well as God's judgment for good reason. These times of trouble will provide many opportunities for true Christians to practice the sacrifices that Peter was writing about. The political offices of this country, especially at the top levels have already been filled with "New World Order" puppets, and those who are intimidated into letting the Global Tyrants have their way against the people and our constitution and Bill of Rights. The average American has not truly got a representative in office that is looking out for their ideas and goals, or for the good of America as is prescribed in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Our government has already been taken over by this bunch of super wealthy business cooperations, and "banksters" of this world. The average American will suddenly find out that we are no longer The United States of America when they declare martial law and enslave the common people.

I don't believe that Americans will just surrender and give up without a fight. Americans are like wild stallions that are unaccustomed to the bit and bridle; but there is no way that they could win such a war against the evil forces that are against us; *unless God were on their side; but they have forsaken and rebelled against the true God.* This New World Order will not just occupy Europe like Adolf Hitler; but will also be allowed by the Eternal God to punish and enslave the end time descendants of all Israel including the United States of America, because

of their continual increase of sins. This end time Beast power is taking over in increments so as not to cause too much alarm, until they are ready to make that final push to spring this sudden trap on the people of America. It is all being done in a very similar manner as how Satan used the Tkach's to take over and scatter the Church of God in this end time: It is through subtlety, stealth, lies and deceptions, and little by little increments of tyrannical laws that are being imposed on the people in contrast to the basic foundational law of this nation; the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The Holy Bible speaks of this time of trouble as the time of Jacobs's trouble, and also as the Great Tribulation. God will use these enemies to punish and humble the end time tribes and nations of Israel so that they will be glad to learn that there is a God in heaven who will deliver them out of their captivity when they sincerely repent of their rebellion against the true God of Israel, and start obeying his commandments. You should read about this enslavement and delivery of modern day Israel in Jeremiah Chapter 30, and Chapter 31; also in Daniel Chapters Eleven, and Twelve.

My brethren, I have not digressed from the subject of sacrifices that are acceptable to God without good reason. This time of tribulation, captivity, suffering, and pain and death is fast approaching on our peoples, both nationally as well as true Christians. Brethren don't let any man deceive you about being in some place of safety while everyone else is suffering. The scriptures are clear that many true Christians are going to experience this great tribulation, and that many more of God's faithful saints will have opportunity to prove their love for Christ and his brethren by being put to death for righteousness sake; not because they continue to be "**lukewarm**" (*neither totally yielded to God and his righteousness, nor totally turned away from God*), but because they are unwavering in standing with Christ and God in truth and righteousness: And they will have opportunity to prove it.

This martyrdom for being faithful to Christ will afford them a badge of honor and glory that will be respected forever. Those who are too fearful of the first death, and desperately seek to be safely tucked away in some place of physical

safety, instead of boldly continuing to teach the truth to those who will desire it; they are in danger. Jesus said that if you seek to save your life in this world, that you will lose it. (Matthew 16: 24, 25)

Instead of true Christians trying to cling to an organization or group of other Christians that are being promised by their preachers that they will be taken to a place of safety during the great tribulation as long as *they support them*; we should rather be yielding ourselves to God and Christ in **complete and total submission and obedience**, whether we suffer, live, or die; and keeping our minds and hearts filled with the knowledge of the praises of our God, and giving praise to God with understanding continually so that God is magnified in our minds; so that we may be filled with faith in Christ and God. We will need great faith to be able to suffer the experiences, and wrongful treatment that we will be expected to endure patiently.

Brethren consider; when our freedoms in this nation are completely taken away, and we are being treated like a bunch of cattle who are being rounded up and sent to slave ships, and slave camps; how tempting it would be for even us true Christians to do as Peter did when he drew his sword and smote off the ear of one of those men who came to forcefully take Christ. Always remember and live by the words of our Lord Jesus who said: **“My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”** (John 18: 36)

Our only sword that we must draw in these times of affliction is for us to call on the Eternal God to be aware of our affliction, and ask him to judge our cause; then leave it in his hands, as the scripture says: *“Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God, commit the keeping of their souls to him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”* (1 Pet. 4: 19) Jesus did likewise in his time of trial, because he knew that his Father in heaven would certainly judge rightly. (1 Pet. 2: 23) Remember also brethren; just because God judges rightly, does not mean that he will always deliver us from all suffering or even from this first death.

Whatever we true Christians must suffer; God desires us to suffer patiently bearing our wrongful treatment in a godly and humble attitude, while trusting in

God for the overall good outcome that we patiently wait for. This is a kind of sacrifice that is acceptable to God. (1 Pet. 2: 5-21) This type sacrifice shows God and ourselves, as well as other people who will later evaluate our lives in similar manner as we now do Christ and his Apostles; that we do love God and his way enough to suffer for it, and that we do honestly believe in our Creator and life giver, that he will preserve us in his kingdom after that we have been made more perfect through sufferings.

Sacrifices of Praise and Thanksgiving

Friends and brethren, we all know that God's word is full of teaching concerning giving thanks and offering praise to the Eternal God. I would like to share with you some of the wisdom that God has given to me concerning this matter.

We all should be able to agree that if a man desired for other people to give praise to him, for his imagined or real greatness, that such a man is vain and foolish for seeking self glory. Our Great Creator God is not vain, nor foolish, yet he desires for us to ascribe praise and Glory to him. Why? Have you ever considered this? About twenty three years ago, in 1992 these thoughts came into my mind; and I meditated about it and God gave me real understanding about this subject. As a matter of fact I was so impressed with this truth that I gave a sermon to the church on this truth. I was attending services with the Edmond, Oklahoma Church in the so called PCG organization at that time. This knowledge has helped me very much in my own relationship with God; and I believe it could help other brethren as well.

When I was still just a teenage boy I was obligated to attend church services with my Great Uncle and Aunt whom I was living with. That church was one of the protestant and "Pentecostal" type churches of this world which had the custom of certain self-righteous individuals who would interrupt the preacher, with hollering out loud things like, "praise the Lord", and "halleluiah". To me that sort of thing didn't seem to make much sense, but it was disruptive and an

outward showoff of one's personal imagined "righteousness". In other words it seemed to be done in an effort to give the impression of his own glory of "righteousness", instead of actually showing forth the true Glory and Praises of the Creator God. Of course I realize that those people may have been well meaning, but never-the-less they were just deceived, and God had not called them yet, and was not yet judging them, and neither do I.

Having experienced witnessing the above self-righteousness in action; I had developed an opinion that it was some-what degrading of one's self, embarrassing, and foolishness to be "Praising" God. I also was wrong! I just didn't know God at that time; and I had a lot of vain, foolish pride. I didn't want to humble, and humiliate myself, in front of other people, by worshiping a God that I couldn't see, and wasn't completely sure that he even existed, even though I believed that he did exist. Since then I have come to understand, and know that God actually is very real; and he is also very much personally involved in my own life; and he truly is worthy of being Praised and worshiped; and it is certainly not degrading for a man to worship and praise our loving, merciful and Almighty Creator God. I now am embarrassed, and ashamed of my former foolish ignorance and vain pride.

The important thing is: that we should give thanks and praise to God with understanding. (*Psalms 47: 7*) Just giving vain lip service to God in song or prayer or in shouts to show off is not pleasing to God. What does please God is when a person who truly is dedicated to obeying God and his Holy Commandments; giving thanks and praise to him with an understanding heart. Even when giving Praise and thanks to God with an understanding heart; it still should be done in an orderly and respectful way; and not to disrupt the sermon, or to simply draw attention to one's self, or to just have an emotional spasm of religious orgasm in Church services.

Now back to the question: Why does God desire us to worship and praise him? Is God vain like men? No! When you understand the truth on this matter, you will see that it is us who benefit most from worshiping and praising God, and

giving thanks to him. God Almighty desires us to Praise and worship him for our own good!

Understand this brethren, Men like to receive praise and glory to exalt their selves to appear bigger, better, tougher, more powerful, more handsome, smarter, wiser, richer, and generally more glorious than they truly are. In other words they seek vain glory, to try and compensate for their own frailty, weakness, feelings of inferiority and unimportance, and lack of true greatness. If men can persuade other men to glory in them, then they feel exalted and are content to have vain glory as long as others seem to look up to them. This is vanity and foolishness! The Great Eternal God is not like men in this. Man, lusting to have the praise of men is a great weakness in human nature; it has led men to become men pleasers, in order to gain their praise, instead of trying to please our Maker, God. Men also use their imagined greatness in the eyes of foolish deceived people to gain more leverage and control of those people's lives and their wealth: This is a great evil used by sorcerers, false prophets, and deceitful religious leaders.

God does not seek vain glory. The plain unleavened truth about our Creator God is more wonderful, glorious, powerful, just, righteous, wise, knowledgeable, and good than our minds are capable of fully comprehending. God does not desire us to worship and praise him to give himself a "head rush", or to feel impressed with what we think or say of him like some vain man. So why does God desire for us humans to worship and praise him? The truth about this matter is amazing and wonderful, showing forth even more of God's great Glory and Praise.

Understand this truth my friends: Giving vain lip service to God does not praise God. It is God's own glorious, wisdom, understanding, knowledge, abilities, awesome power, love, mercy, righteousness, works, mighty deeds and Holy Character, that shows forth the praises God. If we can truly comprehend only a little bit of these praise worth attributes of God, then we are very blessed. Notice Psalm 145, verse 10: "All thy works shall praise the, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee." Notice; it is God's own works, both in spiritual matters as well as in

physical displays that reveal the Glory and Praise of God. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows forth his handiwork.” (*Ps. 19: 1*) “Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful works to the children of men!” (*Psalms 107: 21*) Notice the very next verse: “And let them **sacrifice** the **sacrifices of thanksgiving**, and **declare his works** with rejoicing.” (*Ps. 107: 22*) This is a kind of free will sacrifice and offering that we should give to God with Joy and rejoicing from the heart, because we see and appreciate the goodness of God in our lives, and for our benefit. This type sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving is spiritual fulfillment of such sacrifices of a burnt offering type, like Noah offered in (*Genesis 8: 21, 22*) after they had come out of the ark. It is a “sweet smelling savour” before God.

As I stated earlier in this writing; the physical animal sacrifices of the Old Testament ritual law were only a shadow of good things to come. (*Hebrews 10: 1-8*) As the book of Hebrews teaches us; the sacrifice of Christ fulfilled the necessary sacrifice for our sins, to reconcile us to God; but there were other types of sacrifices that were also a shadow of the spiritual sacrifices that we true Christians, (*which are the holy priesthood of God*) should be offering up to God, through Christ living in us. (*1 Peter 2: 5*) As I have already stated above in this writing some of these sacrifices are simply sacrifices of following Christ’s example in living and behaving righteously even when being persecuted and condemned by the ungodly of this world. (*1 Peter Chapter 2*)

Having a humble contrite and repentant heart is also shown by David to be **an acceptable sacrifice** to God; so also is giving thanks and declaring the praise worthy attributes of our God. “Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, you God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of **your righteousness.**” “O Lord, open you my lips and my mouth shall show forth your Praise; for you desire not sacrifices; else would I give it: You delight not in burnt-offering.” The Sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” (*Psalms 51: 14-17*)

David (*a man after God’s own heart*) admonishes us to: “stand in awe (*of God*) and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.” “**Offer**

the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.” (*Psalm 4: 4, 5*) God says he doesn’t want sacrifices of animals, but what he desires, is for us to give thanks, pay our vows, and offer praise to glorify him (*in our own minds eye*). (*Psalm 50*) Again I ask the question: Why does God desire us to give praise to him? God’s own works, character, nature, righteousness, love, wisdom, power, faithfulness, mercy, knowledge, and deeds and creation show forth the glory and praise of God. He doesn’t need us to remind him of his own goodness, or to make him feel big and important like a vain man.

God desires us to speak of his praises to him in sincere prayer, and in songs, and in our fellowship with each other, so that we may be able to better comprehend and understand the goodness and glory of our Great God. God desires for us to be able to get to truly know our God, and what he is like. God desires to be **magnified in our sight**, so that we will have greater respect for him; so that we will have greater faith in him, and be better motivated to yield ourselves totally to him and Christ, to let them truly live more fully in us. We are created to be a house for God to dwell in, as is mentioned in Isaiah Chapter 66 and many other places in the Holy Scriptures. The greater we comprehend the glory of our God, the greater respect we will have for our own destiny to become literal Spirit born sons of God. The more that we speak of and sing the praises of God; the more we glorify God *in our own minds*. (*Psalm 50: 23*)

God’s Glory has always been, and always will be Great and wonderful whether we recognize it or not; but for our own good, we need to meditate on, and study to understand the wonderful praise worthy attributes of our loving Creator God. We also need to speak of these wonderful praises of God in our heartfelt prayers to God so that we may magnify him in our own sight. A son doesn’t have much motivation to be like his father if he hasn’t learned to know and respect him. Our destiny is to become like our Father in Heaven! Do we have enough respect for him? Remember how Jesus taught us to pray? He shows us that we should start our prayers with *sincere* worship of our Father. (*Matthew 6: 9*) My question to us all is: How are we going to be able to sincerely worship our Father in heaven unless we are very knowledgeable, and respectful of his praise worthy attributes? For our own good, we need to keep our selves joyfully mindful of God’s Praises

and Glory. We can do this through Meditation, sincere heartfelt Prayer, and speaking of God's praises to our brethren in fellowship, and in singing the praises of God with understanding and joy. When we praise God with understanding; we are magnifying God in our own minds.

Friends and brethren, if we are to have any kind of chance at behaving ourselves righteously when we are in severe trial and temptation; then our God must be Great and Mighty in our sight; and we must be closely united with him in loving, respectful fellowship with him. Understand this friends and brethren; If God is not magnified in our sight, then we will not have our real hope set in him. Read Psalm 78: "Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable. I will utter dark sayings of old: which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come **the Praises** of the Lord, and **his strength**, and **his wonderful works** that he has done; for he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make **them** known to their children: That the generation to come might know **them**, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare **them** to their children: That they Might set their **hope** in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments." (*Psalm 78: 1-7*)

When we give the free will offering of praise with understanding, and thanksgiving, to our Great, loving, most merciful Creator God; then we are magnifying God in our sight. In this we are the greater recipient of blessing. God already knows that the plain unleavened truth about his self is Great, Good, Perfect, Wise, Just, Righteous, most powerful, and tempered with Mercy, and complete Honesty. The Point is: God doesn't need us to glorify him with our words as some vain man would desire; but God wants us to begin to try and comprehend his own true Glory in our minds, so that we may have the necessary respect for our Father that we need; so that we can truly desire to let him correct and mould us into his own Holy Righteous Character, even in times of temptation; so that we can actually become his own Spirit born Sons.

Even in this wonderful example, we see some of the Great love and wisdom, and Glory of our Father in Heaven. We truly can't out give God! The more we sincerely give praise and worship our Father in Heaven, the more we receive of God's blessings in being able to comprehend the Greatness of God, and our destiny. Through the blessing of having God Magnified in our minds and hearts, we are strengthened in faith, hope, courage, love, and all of the wonderful characteristics of the Great Eternal God. Let God be magnified! (*Psalm 70: 4*)

Now brethren and friends, we need to realize that God has done mighty wonders in the Land of Egypt, and in the presents of his chosen nation Israel. We certainly should study and remember the mighty wonders of God spoken of in the Holy Scriptures; but we also need to realize that God's wonders continue in our lives also. We need to be mindful of God's involvement in our own personal lives. Do we see God's wonders in our personal lives? We should Praise God for all his wonderful works in our own life. Remember the way God brought you out of Spiritual Egypt? Do you think on these things? We should meditate on the fine detail of God's deliverances and wonderful works in our lives. We should Praise God in our prayers about those things. Remember the times when you had a real need and asked God for that need to be met? Do you stir up the Spirit of God in you by giving thanks and praise to God for showing himself mighty in your sight? If true Christians will start giving more praise and thanks to God, and truly worship God in sincerity; then he will become even more visible mighty in your own mind and heart; and your faith will also be increased as you submit more perfectly to let Christ and our Father dwell in you. Giving honest and sincere praise and thanks to God benefits us more than it does God.

One very good way to worship and praise God is to study his written word and be in constant prayer and communication with God about what you are reading. I have found that God will multiply your understanding also if your heart is right, and you truly are letting him teach you in this manner of study. We must be careful not to try telling God what his word means, but as a teachable little child; let God teach you what his word is talking about.

Another wonderful way to praise and worship God is to examine and study his creation in detail, so that the wonders are exposed to your understanding: Then talk to God about these things. If we will truly yield ourselves in total obedience to all that we know that God expects of us; then if we ask him to; he will reveal his Glory and Praises to us more perfectly. The more we offer sincere and honest praise to God with understanding; the more he will reveal his Glorious Praises to us. Our ability to “see” the Great Glory of God will increase, as we study and meditate on the awesome wonders and deeds of our God; and talk of the praise worthy attributes, and deeds of God, with God, and with other brethren. Again I remind you that God’s mighty and wonderful deeds are not just in the past; or only with King David; but with all of those who are called to be able to appreciate them, and get to know God and Christ.

When God truly is magnified in our sight; then we will be in a far better position to remain faithful to God while we must bear the insults and sufferings that we will have to face in this evil world. The spiritual sacrifices that Peter speaks of in his writing will be much easier to do if God is Mighty, and real to us, in our personal perception. God is Real and Mighty, whether we perceive it or not. Should not God’s own Church actually know their God?

I hope that this writing will be helpful to anyone who reads it in truly seeking to better know God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise you the Lord, and let God be MAGNIFIED,

Gary Stowers