

Sunday, 20 October 2024

The Sacrifice of Praise

2 Corinthians 2:14, Hebrews 13:15

God always leads you into victory (2 Cor. 2:14). Therefore, victory must always be God's will for your life. When you are facing difficult times and situations that appear to be impossible, God will lead you into to victory. However, when God leads, you must follow. If you follow the leading of God, He will take you into victory every time. One primary way that God leads you is by His Word. If you do what God tells you to do in the Bible in faith, you will experience victory.

We see in the Bible that many times when God's people experienced seemingly impossible situations, as they began to praise Him. When they followed that leading, God gave them the victory.

1 What is the sacrifice of praise?

- 1.1 A sacrifice of praise is the fruit of our lips thanking God when we face difficult situations – Hebrews 13:15
 - 1.1.1 One purpose of the book of Hebrews is to encourage the Jewish believers who were facing severe persecution and were extremely discouraged, and to instruct them what they should do, offer the sacrifice of praise to God.
- 1.2 A sacrifice is something we offer up to God. Therefore, God sees your thanks as an offering to Him, which honors Him.

2 Why do we offer the sacrifice of praise?

- 2.1 When we offer praise and thanks unto God amid difficult times we are raising God above the problem.
- 2.2 It is an act of our faith declaring we believe God is greater than our problem, that God is faithful, He will help us, He will give us the victory, He will do a miracle for us.
- 2.3 When we praise God the power of God begins to work in our behalf. 2 When the Israelites praise God and God turned things around and gave them a miraculous victory which blessed them abundantly - Chronicles 20:14-25.
 - 2.3.1 Paul and Silas began to praise God when they were unjustly treated, amid an attack of the devil, bleeding and in severe pain. God turned it around and people were saved - Acts 16:25-34
 - 2.3.1.1 Why did Paul and Silas do this? They were following the example in the Bible, and they understood the power of the sacrifice of praise.
 - 2.3.1.2 Paul wrote 2 Corinthians 2:14 and therefore he understood God can and will turn his situation around if he responded in faith in God. He understood the power of praise. He knew How God responded in the Old Testament when Gods' people begin to praise Him.
 - 2.3.2 The end of the verse 2 Corinthians 2:14 states that through our victory God diffuses the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.
 - 2.3.2.1 This is what happened in 2 Chronicles chapter 20 and Acts chapter 16.
 - 2.3.2.2 When you offer the sacrifice of praise to God in difficult times and God gives you the victory, God will diffuse the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. People will see and know through your victory that your God is a

good God. When those people face difficult times, they will come to you for advice, and you can lead them to Christ.

Conclusion: When you face difficult times begin to praise God for His faithfulness, and for the victory. God will turn it around for you. You will be blessed and those around you will know that your God is a good God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the sacrifice of praise?
2. Why do we offer the sacrifice of praise?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 2:14, what happens when God gives you the victory?