



God's Way of Giving Thanks

Lesson 2

Giving thanks God's way is **PRAISING** God!

"Through [Christ] then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:15-16

The Essentials of Praise | What Praise Is

1. No Word in the Bible Means Simply **"TO THANK"**!

Gratitude exclaims, very properly, *"How good of God to give me this."*

Adoration says, "What must be the quality of that Being whose [gifts] are like this? One's mind runs back up the sunbeam to the sun..." - C. S. Lewis

2. Biblical Praise **PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGES** Our Need for Our Creator-Redeemer-Ruler!

GIVING THANKS GOD'S WAY!	
CONFESSION to GOD	PRAISE of GOD
Publicly Acknowledging Our Neediness & Sinfulness	Publicly Acknowledging His Provision & Salvation
<i>As created beings we are completely dependent and as fallen beings we are totally depraved!</i>	<i>His greatness is majestic and awesome and His goodness is merciful and abundant!</i>

Our confession leads to His praise through the Cross!

Two Kinds of Public Acknowledgment in the Old Testament

1. **CONFESSION**: Acknowledging our neediness and sinfulness.
2. **PRAISE**: Acknowledging His provision and redemption.

Two Sides to Public Praise in the Old Testament

1. Acknowledge His **GREATNESS** as our Creator-King!
2. Acknowledge His **GOODNESS** as our Redeemer-King!

Two Kinds of Praise Psalms in the Old Testament

1. "God Is So **GOOD**" psalms that **DECLARE** God's goodness. (*Declarative Praise Psalms*)

WHAT God Does in His Merciful Goodness: *Psalms 66:1-4; 106:1-3; 116:1-19; 11:1-3*

2. "God Is So **GREAT**" psalms that **DESCRIBE** God's greatness. (*Descriptive Praise Psalms*)

WHO God Is in His Majestic Greatness: *Psalms 29:1-2; 117; 113; 135; 146; 136*

The Expression of Praise | What Praise Is Not

1. Biblical Praise Is Not Simply an ATTITUDE of Gratitude or a FEELING of Thankfulness.

*"I will praise the LORD!" = I will **RESPOND** to Him because of His majestic attributes & His mighty acts of mercy!*

OT Praise: Sacrifices and Offerings at the Temple on the Basis of God's Promise of Christ!

Based on **His progressive promises**, I will **respond** to the LORD for who He is and what He does with...

1. **SHOUTING** for joy (*Psalm 66:1*)
2. **SINGING** with thankfulness (*vv. 2, 4*)
3. **SPEAKING** out loud (*vv. 3, 16-17*)
4. **SACRIFICING** to God (*vv. 13-15*)
5. **SHARING** with others (*vv. 5, 8-9, 16*)
6. **SERVING** with gladness (*vv. 8-12, 20*)
7. **SUBMITTING** my whole heart = entire life (*vv. 3-4, 18-20*)

NT Praise: Living Sacrifices on the Basis of God's Fulfilment in Christ!

Based on **His progressive fulfilment**, I will **respond** to the LORD Jesus Christ for who He is and what He does...

1. As a personal **LIVING** sacrifice... *Romans 12:1-2*
2. With daily **SPIRITUAL** sacrifices... *Hebrews 13:15-17; 2 Peter 2:5, 9-10*
3. And weekly (Sunday!) **CONGREGATIONAL** sacrifices. *Acts 2:41-47; Ephesians 5:18-21; Colossians 3:16-17*

Giving Thanks God's Way

Is responding actively to God in word and deed with our whole heart!

2. Biblical Praise Is Not Simply SAYING "Thank You"!

GIVING PRAISE	SAYING THANKS
Exalts or lifts up the one praised	The one being thanked remains in place
Looks away from self & directs attention on the one praised	In thanks I express "my thanks"
Characterized by a spontaneous genuine, heart-felt expression	Often characterized as a mundane duty that must be taught
Ultimately to be shared in the presence of others	Most often occurs in private, one-to-one

Giving Thanks God's Way

Includes giving thanks, but is a *much more* God-exalting, self-forgetting, heart-overflowing, public response!

3. Biblical Praise Is Not Simply a PRIVATE PRACTICE/HOBBY!

"Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, In the company of the upright and in the assembly." Psalm 111:1

Two Dangers to Avoid

- Substituting **PERSONAL** praise for public praise.
- Substituting **PUBLIC** praise for personal praise.

Give Thanks God's Way

Publicly acknowledge and humbly respond to the Father's awesome greatness and goodness through His Son, Jesus Christ, according to His Word and in the power of His Spirit with His blood-bought, born again children.

Learn to Give Thanks God's Way: Pursue the Practice of Biblical Praise! See Handout!