



Living Thanks

*based upon a sermon by
Adrian Rogers*

Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

Dr. Adrian Rogers was a popular preacher in Memphis, TN whose books and radio broadcasts are still influencing thousands. His sermon, "How to Turn Thanksgiving Into Thanksliving," is based upon Psalm 107:21-22., which says, "Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!" ESV

If we are to turn thanksgiving into thanksliving, it must involve more than mere words. Action must accompany the words. The Psalmist speaks of "the sacrifices of thanksgiving." A chorus we sing is based upon this passage. "We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. And we offer up to Him the sacrifices of thanksgiving. And we offer up to Him the sacrifices of joy."

Rogers contends that turning our thanksgiving into thanksliving involves what the Bible calls the "sacrifices of thanksgiving." He identifies five spiritual sacrifices that he calls sacrifices of thanksgiving.

SACRIFICE OF YOUR PERSON

Paul urges us to present to God our bodies as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1-2). Why should we do this? Paul says it is because of the mercies of God by which Jesus gave His body on the cross as the sacrifice required for our salvation.

Lyrics from the hymn, "At the Cross," say, "But drops of blood could never repay the debt of love I owe. Here, Lord, I give myself away. It's all that I can do."

A sacrifice has no plans for itself, but has died to self. Those who have died to self have voluntarily and completely committed themselves. Many who consider themselves Christians are unwilling, due to other commitments and desires, to tie themselves down to a specific role or function of service. But the sacrificial animal was tied down just as we should

willingly be tied down in committed service. Such commitment is a reasonable way to express thanks through our lives.

SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

The writer of Hebrews says, "Through [Jesus] then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name" (13:15). The Psalmist declares, "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (34:1). ESV

Praising and blessing the Lord is to be a way of life, a regular verbal expression of thanks that glorifies and exalts the Lord. Again, the Psalmist says, "I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving" (69:30).

SACRIFICE OF PRAYER

David wrote, "Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!" (Psalm 141:2 ESV) Our prayers are like incense, an aromatic perfume that is released when heated. Revelation 5 tells us that our prayers ascend to God as a sweet smelling smoke.

It was fire from the golden altar upon which animals were sacrificed as burnt offerings that released the aroma from the incense. Having presented our bodies as living and holy sacrifices (Rom. 12:1) we then offer incense, our prayers, with hands uplifted (Ps. 141:2).

SACRIFICE OF POSSESSIONS

Hebrews 13:16 says our sharing of material blessings is a sacrifice that pleases God. We live thanks when we give.

SACRIFICE OF PURITY

This is the sacrifice of a broken and contrite spirit, as David calls it in Psalm 51:17. David's remorse for his terrible sins resulted in a broken and contrite heart that expressed itself by purity of life. Pure living is thanks living. This gratitude blesses and pleases God. Our sacrifices of thanksgiving include our person, praise, prayer, possessions and purity .

