

# Giving Thanks to the Lord

## **I. It is easier to understand the role of thanksgiving in our relationship with God when we understand the history of the thanksgiving offering or sacrifice.**

- A. According to Leviticus 7, there was a fellowship offering given as an expression of thankfulness. It involved an animal sacrifice and offerings of cakes of bread. The person offering the sacrifice ate part of the offering with a priest, sharing the joy of thanksgiving and breakthrough together.
- B. It is easy to see where the concept of a thanksgiving meal had its roots in the minds of the early Christians of America.

## **II. The concept of thank offerings and thanksgiving is pervasive in the Scriptures, especially in the Psalms.**

- A. There is the idea that one can pray for deliverance, but “praise must follow deliverance as surely as prayer springs from need—if God is truly to be honored” (NIV Study Bible).
- B. A thank offering helps us understand several key ideas (Psalm 50:14-15; 107:17-22).
  - 1. Prayer for help in time of need
  - 2. Praise and thanksgiving when prayers are answered
  - 3. Cost and the fulfillment of vows
- C. Jesus was both our sacrifice and our high priest. We worship Him with praise and thanksgiving from our lips and with sacrifices that cost us something (Hebrews 13:15-16; Matthew 25:37-40).

## **III. Giving thanks reflects the core of our relationship with God.**

- A. Our willingness to give Him honor in worship (Psalm 50:7-15; 95:1-2; 100:4)
- B. The power of thanksgiving in the circumstances of our lives (Psalm 50:23; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 17:11-19).

## **IV. Thanksgiving is our response to God that transcends all our circumstances. “If God is for us, who can be against us” (Romans 8:31-32; Jonah 2:7-10; I Thessalonians 5:16-18)?**

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