

FASTING AND PRAISE – 4
JANUARY 31, 2018

HEBREWS 13:15

1. Everything we do as Christians is to be done through Jesus.
 - A. Without Jesus we can do nothing. All we do in word and deed is to be done in the Name of Jesus. Our only approach to God is by the shed blood of Jesus. Only praise offered through Jesus is made acceptable.
 - B. From the beginning of human history, we're taught approaching God requires a sacrifice. Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, the Levitical sacrificial system, all pointed to God's supreme and final sacrifice for sin, the Lord Jesus Christ. **HEBREWS 10:14**
 - C. Christ's sacrifice completed, fulfilled and ended the Jewish sacrificial system. Now, only spiritual sacrifices are to be offered. **1 PETER 2:5**

2. Our sacrifice of praise is to be offered continually.
 - A. Continual praise infers our praise isn't based on our circumstances. **PHILIPPIANS 4:4, 11-13 (ESV)** – Just study Paul's circumstances.
 - B. The Psalms speak of continual praise. **PSALMS 113:1-3, 34:1**
 - C. Praising God isn't something nice to do, it's necessary if we want to continually experience God's presence and power. **PSALMS 50:23**

3. Genuine praise comes from the heart, not just the lips.
 - A. The fruit of our lips and condition of our heart must be in sync. **MATTHEW 15:8** – The lips may say one thing while the heart says another.
 - B. It's our duty to cultivate a heart that stands in awe of God. **PS. 33:6-9** – The fear of God and awe go together. Awe is an overwhelming feeling of reverence and respect. Isaiah was "awe struck" when he saw the Lord. Worship came automatically.
 - C. We must repent for allowing life's challenges to cause us to lose sight of the goodness and greatness of God.

CONCLUSION:

Genuine worship is about God, not us. It's about honoring, exalting, reverencing and standing in awe of Him.