

*"...let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks..." Heb. 13:15*

Our hearts fill with pride and emotion as we watch our loved ones or favorite team surge towards victory. Our lips give involuntarily evidence of these emotions deep within us. We are not, however, quite so ready to praise the God of our salvation.



Could it be, perhaps, that our hearts do not swell with emotion when the Divine Creator stoops to intervene in our daily struggles? Maybe it's because we do not recognize His Hand at work. Maybe we need to draw closer to the throne room so we can watch as His Majesty gives liberally to all the needy that approach. Maybe we should avail ourselves of this liberality from time to time to keep our hearts refreshed and renewed. We would need no prompting to praise Him then. However, we are told to give *"the sacrifice"* of praise. That must mean that it's not going to be spontaneous or effortless. In those dark times when it seems the heavens are brass and God is deaf, we, by faith, praise the Faithful One who works everything to the good of those that love Him. We count our blessings, and know that *"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it,"* because He has already proved Himself to us in past situations. It is the dark times when praise becomes a *"sacrifice."* It must become a habit as indicated by the word, *"continually."* We must always rejoice in the providential care and Divine Love of our Lord. We don't "hope" He will provide, we "know" it. *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* I believe it's a rhetorical question. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

*"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalm 37:25*

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