

## GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part XXVI  
*Psalm 103:1-5*

Introduction: There is a required protocol when meeting dignitaries from countries worldwide. There is protocol for a meeting with the queen of England that entails a genteel approach. There is a process of respect and protocol when meeting the president of the United States. The same is true when meeting with the Pope of Rome. Protocol has to do with what you say to the dignitary and how you conduct yourself when you are in their presence. Even in our courts, we honor the judge and are circumspect when we speak. There is also protocol for meeting with the King of kings, and that is to approach His presence with praise and singing. *Psalm 100:1-5*. The way to get into the city where God resides is to come through the gate of praise. Once we get into His presence, we can intimately make our petitions known to Him.

### I. God's magnificent idea

#### A. The sacrifice of praise. This idea of sacrifice is everywhere in the Bible.

1. Sacrifice became necessary immediately after the original sin. *Genesis 3:21*.
2. Cain and Abel. *Genesis 4:3-4*. Abel offered an animal sacrifice, and it was acceptable; Cain's was not. Cain killed Abel out of jealousy.
3. It is important to notice that God required a sacrifice. When God asked for a sacrifice, it was mandatory for the people to bring the best of their substance and to present it in a very specific manner to the Lord as an offering.
4. There were several sacrificial animals that were offered in the tabernacle of Moses. The high priest had to offer a bull for the cleansing of his own sin. A ruler of the people had to offer a ram. The people themselves could bring a lamb or a goat.
5. The purpose for each sacrifice was explicit. God demanded the shedding of blood for the covering of man's sin. He instituted that principle when he shed the blood of innocent animals and took the skins to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve in the garden. God's holiness could not be violated. His holiness had to be propitiated. To regain God's favor, the blood of an innocent animal had to be shed.

#### B. Although the need for a blood sacrifice was fulfilled at Calvary, the principle of sacrifice has not been abolished in the New Testament.

1. *Hebrews 13:15* (Amplified): "Through Him, therefore, let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His Name." God knows that we must give in order to receive. *Luke 6:38*. He wants us to have abundance, but He requires a sacrifice first. We do this by praising Him even when we don't feel like it. We also do it when we give sacrificially. Our sacrifice triggers the laws of God into action, and we become the beneficiary of His beneficence.
2. There is a price to pay to enter into praise and worship. There is a cost to the process. It is easy to sit back in our pew and enjoy the efforts of others. God is not interested only in praise when things are going well. He is after that praise that comes in the midst of great trial, great difficulties, grief, sickness, demon oppression, temptation, and financial problems.
3. Praise is an act of our will. We will to praise God in spite of the way we feel. *Psalm 34:1*. Sometimes it is a great sacrifice to praise Him. In any case, as we praise Him, we must direct our thoughts toward the Lord. This involves effort because it is possible to lose focus and not concentrate on Him.
4. *Psalm 103:1*. This verse intrigues me. David is speaking to his soul. He is commanding his soul to bless the Lord. Everyone in our congregation must learn the sacrifice of praise. That means when we come together to church we come to celebrate the victory Christ has won on our behalf. Unadulterated praise is the way to worship God. When this happens, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon a congregation and we are then ready for God's miraculous power.

Conclusion: The sacrifice of praise is like turning a key in an automobile. It gets the engine started. The engine starts, and then the car begins to move. In the same way, the blessings of the Lord come down upon His people when they lift up sincere, heartfelt praise unto Him.