

Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV)

15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name.

16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

58-13-05-The Sacrifice of Sharing

communion, communication, sharing, testimony, worship

Heb 13:15-16

If Jesus lives in our hearts, He also wants to live on our lips.

INTRODUCTION:

–The Christian faith is both a *private* faith and a *public* faith. It's a very personal thing—an internal thing—to invite Jesus into your heart. But to show that you have *identified with Him*, the Lord wants you to be baptized—something *external* that we do with our bodies.

–When we put our trust in Christ, it's not something God wants us to keep to ourselves. He wants us to share the Jesus we've received with others— **Heb 13:15-16**, *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* **HOM.idea.**

I. We Are Not Alone in Sharing Our Faith with Others

- A. “*Through Jesus*” we are “born again,” and “*Through Jesus*” we can share our testimony of Him. (The apostles were *fearful*, until the Day of Pentecost. Then the Holy Spirit filled their hearts to overflowing with Jesus, then they were *bold and fearless in their witness*.)
- B. Scripture describes believers as “a kingdom of priests,” with Jesus as our High Priest to lead us in offering “*to God a sacrifice of praise*.”
1. When OT priests sacrificed “a burnt offering,” it was called “a **pleasing** aroma ... to the LORD by fire.” (It was a tangible form of worship, both an *attitude* of heart and an *active participation*.)
 2. Jesus fulfilled the OT sacrifices for sin, but we have *ongoing sacrifices* to offer. (OT priests worshiped at the Tent of Meeting, but we're called to praise the Lord both when we meet as well as all week long: “*let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise*.”)

TRANS: OT worship required effort, but today we have Christ's help. “*Through Jesus*” we share our “*sacrifice of praise*” with others. He helps us turn the faith in our hearts into “*the fruit of lips that confess his name*.” So...

II. How Do We Turn Our Heart's Treasures into Testimonies?

- A. Confessing Jesus is *how we become Christians*— **Rom 10:9**, That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that

God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (The order is the “mouth” first then the “heart,” because God’s emphasis in salvation is on communication. God shares truth, and He wants us to share truth.)

- B. Confessing our faith in Christ to others is an ongoing verification of our faith— **Mat 10:32-33** (NKJV), “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” (Jesus doesn’t want superficial faith. He gave His all on the Cross to establish a relationship with us. His words aren’t to be a threat but a practical self-test for us to see if our faith is real.)
- C. As we grow in our faith-relationship with Jesus, spend time with Him in prayer, read His Word and follow His guidance, our minds become more focused on Him, and that focus will overflow into our conversations with those we meet.

TRANS: In most conversations, people talk about what they’ve *been doing* or what they’ve *been learning* or what they’re *interested in*. All of these areas relate to our journey with Christ. We should really listen to the stories others have to tell, but then we should be real ourselves by sharing the treasures of our faith journey with them. By doing this...

III. We Can Multiply the Blessings God Brings into Our Lives

- A. Generosity is the focus of **v.16**, *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased*. (This sharing is about giving from our abundance to the needy. But since **v.15** is about verbal sharing, it heightens the importance of sharing blessings.)
1. When God has done something good for us that lifts our spirits, we can multiply that blessing’s impact by sharing it with others.
 2. Paul says a prayer for the believers in Rome— **Rom 15:13**, May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (The blessings for which we praise God give us “*joy and peace*,” but by sharing them with others—whose hope may need a lift—the Holy Spirit gets involved and causes our hopefulness to overflow to them.)
- B. Our sharing with others delights Jesus, because He gets to be a part of it... He gets to continue speak through His followers.)
1. When He was here on earth, His passionate desire was to make His Father known, as it was prophesied of Him in **Psa 22:22**, I will

- declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.
2. His enemies tried to silence His voice, but now His voice has been multiplied in the mouths of those He indwells.

CONCLUSION:

—**When Jesus lives in our hearts, He also wants to live on our lips.**
 In a special way, He promises His presence when we meet together— **Mat 18:20**, “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” But, He also indwells each of us, and promises in another special way to be with us when we’re dispersed with the Gospel on our lips— **Mat 28:18-19**, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
 —Always remember: it makes God happy to hear us share our testimony of faith in Christ with others. He has blessed our lives in so many ways, and when we share our stories of those blessings, it can multiply them to become even greater and strengthen our own faith.