

Theme: How To Cultivate The Miraculous In The Local Church
Topic: A Royal Priesthood

I Peter 2:4-10

“You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood...”

Exodus 19:5 “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

The Responsibilities of Those Would Strive to Draw Near to God

1. To Offer Up Sacrifices (Leviticus 1)

Unacceptable Sacrifices:

- a. The worship of false gods
- b. The worship of Jehovah along with other gods
“Thou shall have no other gods before me.”
- c. The worship of Jehovah in a wrong way
- d. The worship of Jehovah in the right way, but with the wrong attitude

Acceptable Sacrifices:

- a. Offering our bodies
Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. (NIV)
- b. Offering a sacrifice of praise
Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-the fruit of lips that confess his name. (NIV)
- c. Offering a sacrifice in faith
Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. (NIV)
- d. Offering a sacrifice in humility and brokenness
Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (NIV)

e. Offering a sacrifice with gratitude

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe... (NIV)

f. Offering a sacrifice with purity

Leviticus 22:31-32 Keep my commands and follow them. I am the LORD. 32 Do not profane my holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the LORD, who makes you holy. (NIV)

g. Offering a sacrifice with joy

2. To Be Holy

Leviticus 10:8-10 Then the Lord said to Aaron, "You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the Tent of Meeting, or you will die. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean..."

3. To Pray

Numbers 6:22-27 The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them. (NIV)

4. To Keep the Fire at the Altar Burning

Leviticus 6:12-13 The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.

5. To Bear the Ark of the Covenant

Joshua 4:10-11 "Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the Lord had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over, and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the Lord and the priests came to the other side while the people watched."

6. To Worship During the Battle

Deuteronomy 20:2-4 "When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army. He shall say: Hear O Israel, today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give away to panic before them. For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory."

7. To Seek the Anointing

Exodus 29:7 "Take the anointing oil and anoint him by pouring it on his head. Bring his sons and dress them in tunics and put headbands on them. Then tie sashes on Aaron and his sons. The priesthood is theirs by a lasting ordinance. In this way you shall ordain Aaron and his sons."