



4 Peter 2:4-5

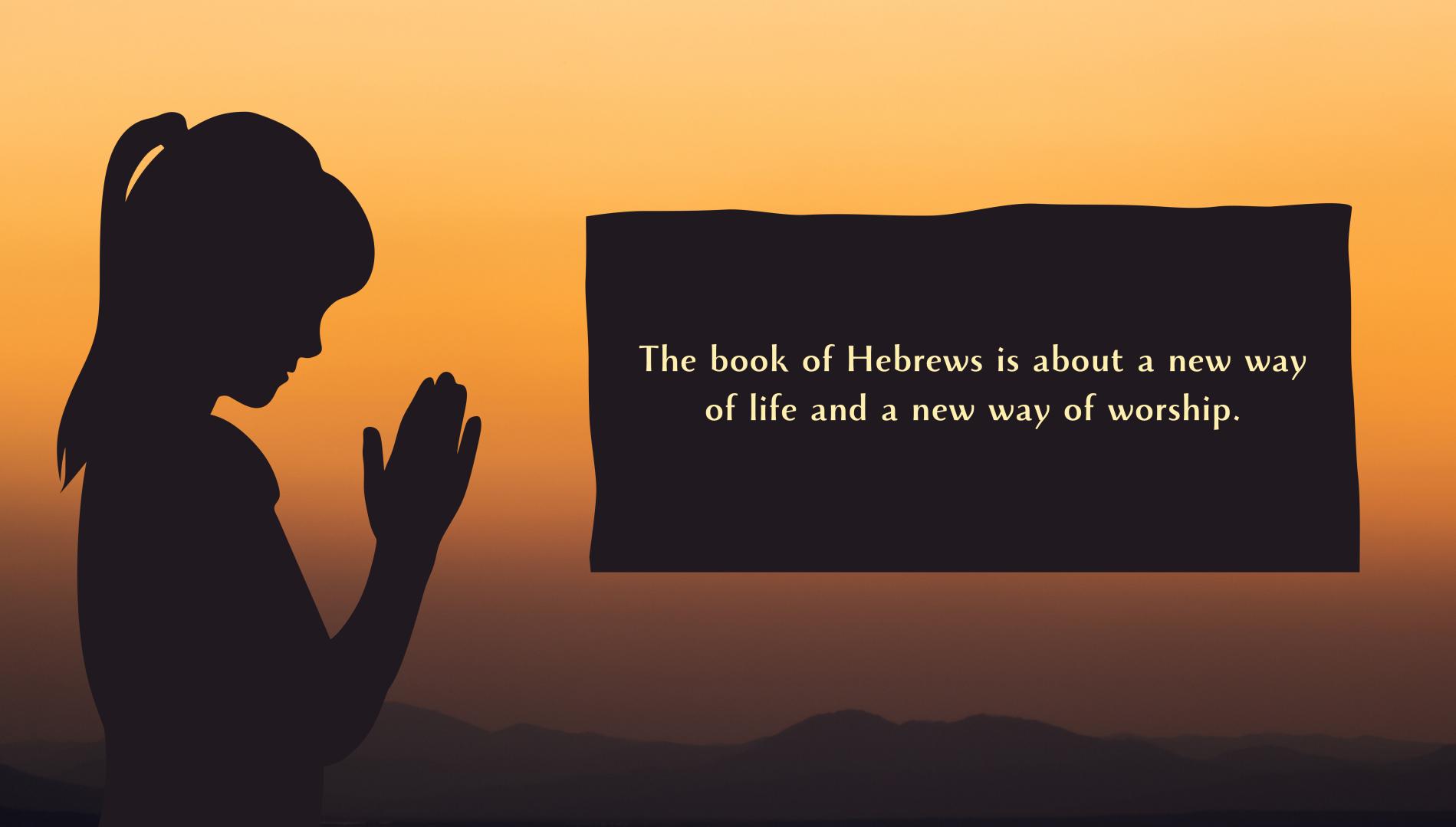
You are coming to Christ, who is the living Cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but He was chosen by God for great honor. And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What is more, you are His holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.



What are Spiritual Sacrifices?



SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES are "offerings" or "sacrifices" a follower of Jesus offers to the Lord. Spiritual sacrifices are the DEEDS you do, the WORDS you speak, the SONGS you sing.



Hebrews 13:15



Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Three Reasons Why Praise Can Be Difficult:

Praise can be Difficult During a SEASON of SUFFERING.

Habakkuk 1:2

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?



Psalm 137:2-4

We put away our harps, hanging them on the branches of poplar trees. For our captors demanded a song from us. Our tormentors insisted on a joyful hymn: "Sing us one of those songs of Jerusalem!" But how can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a pagan land?



Psalm 34:1



I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

1. Praise Moves My Focus from Myself to God.

Psalm 42:11

Why am I so depressed? Why is this turmoil within me? Put your hope in God, for I will still PRAISE Him, my Savior, and my God.



2. Praise is a Confession of My Dependence on God.

Psalm 56:3-4

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, whose Word I PRAISE, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?



Praise can be Difficult During a SEASON of ABUNDANCE.

Deuteronomy 6:12



Take care that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Praise can be Difficult During a SEASON of COMFORT.

Four Reasons the Habit of Praising God is UFTAL:

1. Praise lifts your spirit.

2. Praise helps you sense God's presence.

3. Praise enlarges your perception of God.

4. Praise enlists God's protection.

Psalm 150

Praise the LORD. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens. Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness. Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre, praise Him with timbrel and dancing, praise Him with the strings and pipe, praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise Him with resounding cymbals.



Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD!