A MONTH OF THANKSGIVING | An Offering of Thanksgiving

The Thank Offering (Hebrew:todah) was a voluntary offering given in the Old Testament as an expression of gratitude for God's goodness, provision, protection, and deliverance. Unlike offerings associated with sin or guilt, the thank offering was a joyful response to God's grace. The offering included a communal meal where family and friends celebrated together what God had done. It wasn't about earning God's favor but expressing appreciation for His faithfulness. In the New Testament, Jesus fulfills the sacrificial system. Rather than bringing animals and grain offerings, believers now offer spiritual sacrifices through praise, gratitude, generosity, and lives surrendered to God. The heart of the "todah" lives on as a lifestyle of thanksgiving centered on Christ. Let's see what God's Word has to say!

Read Leviticus 7:11-15

11 "'These are the regulations for the fellowship offering anyone may present to the Lord: 12 "'If they offer it as an expression of thankfulness, then along with this thank offering they are to offer thick loaves made without yeast and with olive oil mixed in, thin loaves made without yeast and brushed with oil, and thick loaves of the finest flour well-kneaded and with oil mixed in. 13 Along with their fellowship offering of thanksgiving they are to present an offering with thick loaves of bread made with yeast. 14 They are to bring one of each kind as an offering, a contribution to the Lord; it belongs to the priest who splashes the blood of the fellowship offering against the altar. 15 The meat of their fellowship offering of thanksgiving must be eaten on the day it is offered; they must leave none of it till morning.

A few more verses...

"Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of His works with songs of joy." —Psalm 107:22

"I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord." —Psalm 116:17

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." —Hebrews 13:15

"Therefore, I urge you, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." —Romans 12:1-2

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." —1 Thessalonians 5:18

"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." —Ephesians 5:20

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

Questions for Reflection

1. Did anything catch your attention? What stands out to you? What is the focus?
2. In Leviticus 7:11-15, what stands out to you about the nature of the thank offering? Why do you think God made this offering voluntary rather than mandatory? How is

the thank offering different from a sin offering or guilt offering? What does the communal feast reveal about God's heart for relationships and community? Why do you think the offering had to be consumed the same day?
3. What is the New Testament equivalent of a thank offering? How can praise become a "sacrifice" during difficult seasons? What does it mean to offer your entire life as a "living sacrifice"? How is generosity and sharing an expression of thanksgiving?
4. What connections do you see between the Old Testament “todah” and the Lord's Supper? Why is it significant that Jesus "gave thanks" before taking Communion? How can Communion become more than a ritual and serve as a genuine expression of gratitude?
5. What insight did you gain from this lesson? Identify a few takeaways from this lesson.

There is a famous ancient rabbinic commentary that states: "In the coming [Messianic] age, all sacrifices will cease, but the sacrifice of thanksgiving (todah) will never cease." For Christians, Communion fulfills this prophecy. While animal sacrifices for sin have ended forever, the "Eucharist"—the ongoing thank offering of the Church—is celebrated continually around the world until Christ returns.

The thank offering teaches us that worship is not primarily about what we give to God but about our response to what He has already done for us. In Christ, we no longer bring sacrifices to obtain God’s favor; we live lives of gratitude because His favor has already been secured through the cross. As we offer continual praise, share generously with others, and remember Christ through Communion, we carry forward the heart of the “todah” as a people marked by thanksgiving, joy, and worship.

A Few Takeaways

- The thank offering was a voluntary expression of gratitude, not an attempt to earn God’s favor.
- The “todah” celebrated God’s provision, protection, deliverance, and faithfulness.
- Thanksgiving was intended to be shared publicly through testimony and fellowship.
- Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial system, transforming thank offerings into spiritual sacrifices of praise and worship.
- Believers now offer gratitude through their words and actions.
- Communion serves as a powerful reminder of Christ’s completed work and our ongoing response of thanksgiving.
- A thankful heart is one of the clearest indicators that we understand God’s grace.

In Closing: Thanksgiving is more than a holiday. It is a way of life for the follower of Jesus. This month, we will explore what it means to live with a grateful heart by looking at a few examples from the Bible. We will discover that thanksgiving is more than saying “thank you.” It is recognizing God’s hand in our lives, responding to His grace, and expressing worship from a heart transformed by His love.

Bible Refs: Leviticus 7:11–15; Psalm 107: 22; Psalm 116:17; Hebrews 13:15-16; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16-17; Luke 22:14-20; Matthew 26:26-29 [**SPANISH**]