

The HOLY Spirit (Pt. 3) – “A Holy MISSION”

The Ministry of the Spirit

July 26, 2026

Series Chapter - "HOLY" ...The Holiness Equation

Pt. 1 - "A Holy Identity" + Pt. 2 - "A Holy Setting" + Pt. 3 - "A Holy Mission" = Pt. 4 - "Holy Images"

"Identity & Activity" ...

1Pet 2:9-10 (and v. 4-5)

...These are "Identity Verses"

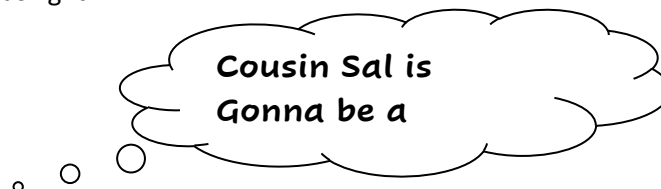
...These are "Activity Verses"

"Peter builds up the identity of God's people (1:1 – 2:10) before spending much of his letter in direct instruction (2:11 – 4:11). ...'2:11 marks a shift from the identity of God's people to their consequent responsibility in a hostile world' (Michaels 1988: xxxv) and 2:11–12 forms the executive summary of all the ensuing directives. What Christopher Wright (2006: 256) said of the Israelites in Exodus 19 can be applied verbatim to Christian believers in 1 Peter: 'They have a role that matches their status. The status is to be a special treasured possession. The role is to be a priestly and holy community in the midst of the nations.' **Andrew Malone**, *God's Mediators: A Biblical Theology of Priesthood* (NSBT)

...the movement from identity to activity

- A Chosen Race ...A Holy Nation
- A Royal Priesthood (v. 5 "to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ")

SUMMATION - "that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"



So, What if in Heaven — **"Hey Gabriel... Keith's Gonna Be a PRIEST!"**

OUR (Defining) MISSION

...By the renewing, indwelling, enlightening, and empowering ministry of the Holy Spirit... Go, Proclaim the Excellencies of Him (Go Bear His IMAGE)... AS A ...

- **As a Chosen Race** (brief) ...also **As a Holy Nation** (brief) ...an Exiled Subgroup—living as Pilgrims
- **As a Royal Priesthood** (offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ)

"...those seeking to be a 'New Testament follower' and 'Jesus person' can enhance their standing greatly by embarking on a tour of biblical priesthood." **Andrew Malone**, *God's Mediators: A Biblical Theology of Priesthood* (NSBT)

- The Priesthood of Adam & Eve ...G.K. Beale; Ed Welch
- The Levitical Priesthood (Mt. Sinai)
- A Different Order of Priests (**Jesus** - Not a Levitical Priest; **Melchizedek** - not a Levitical priest; **N.T. Christian** - not a Levitical priest)

Heb 5:1, 4-6 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ... ⁴ And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,
"You are my Son, today I have begotten you";
⁶ as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

...THIS is what God says of the "Priesthood of Jesus Christ"

...THIS is what God says of OUR Priesthood...

1 Pet 2:5, 9 "⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ...⁹ you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation

"We all—lay people and vocational elders—are the priests of this new spiritual house, and our privilege now as priests is to draw near to God with spiritual sacrifices. The priests brought the sacrifices into the tabernacle in the Old Testament. But now that tabernacle is replaced by the Christian church. The atoning altar is replaced by Jesus Christ and his shed blood. And the priests are replaced by you, those who believe in Christ." **John Piper**, "Becoming a Spiritual House and Holy Priesthood"

?? - What Are These "Spiritual Sacrifices" that are Associated with OUR PRIESTHOOD? (Clearly & Conclusively—they're NOT the Levitical Offerings! ...and they Cannot be Related to the FINISHED work of Christ! - **Heb 10:18** Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.) ...Consider the N.T. Language about "offerings and sacrifices"

- ✓ **"Gospel Witness Offerings" (Evangelism)** ...**Rom 15:16** *to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

"Although Paul does not spell out his precise priestly responsibilities, it is commonly understood – and consistent with his ministry in Romans and beyond – that he emphasizes the work of bringing outsiders closer to God, especially through a ministry of teaching or proclamation" **Andrew Malone**, *God's Mediators: A Biblical Theology of Priesthood* (NSBT)

- ✓ **"All-of-Life Offering" (Eden Renewed)** **Rom 12:1** *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*
- **Rom 12:9-18** ... (Paul's life-description of a 'presented self' to God)
 - **Rom 15:5-7** *"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."*
- ✓ **"Affectionate, Communicated, Expressed Worship"** (praise, thanks, songs, delight, rejoicing, hope, trust, etc.) **Heb 13:15-16** *Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

Ps 107:22 And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

Col 3:16-17 ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Eph 5:1-2 ¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- ✓ **"Circumspect, Providentially Informed Reverence & Awe"** Heb 12:28-29 ²⁸ *Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,* ²⁹ *for our God is a consuming fire.*
- ✓ **"Personal Sacrifice"** Php 2:17 *Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith,* *I am glad and rejoice with you all.*
- ✓ **"Financial Offerings"** Php 4:18 *I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.*
- ✓ **"The Ministry of Prayer"** Rev 5:8-10 ⁸ *And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.* ⁹ *And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,"* ¹⁰ *and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.*

...Our "Priesthood on Earth" is participating in Worship in Heaven and interceding for the purpose of God on earth!

"In keeping with the rest of the NT, Paul assumes an eschatological transformation of the OT cultic ministry, in which animal sacrifices are replaced by obedient Christians (cf. 12:1) and the praise they offer God (Heb. 13:15), the temple by the community of believers (e.g., John 2:21; 1 Cor. 6:19; 1 Pet. 2:5), and the priest by Christians (1 Pet. 2:5, 9)... But one thing has not changed: to be 'pleasing to God,' sacrifices must still be 'sanctified.' And so, Paul acknowledges, it is ultimately God himself, by his Holy Spirit, who 'sanctifies' Gentiles, turning them from unclean and sinful creatures to 'holy' offerings fit for the service and praise of a holy God." **Douglas Moo** (quoted in "God's Mediators: A Biblical Theology of Priesthood" (NSBT))

?? – **How Are YOU Doing in Your Unique Role as a "Royal Priest"** who is appointed (right now) "to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1Pet 2:5)??

"The church has been appointed by Christ to be 'a royal house of priests' (i. 6; v. 10), to mediate his royal and priestly authority to the whole world. Through the church he is to exercise his sovereignty over the nations, smashing their resistance to his rule and releasing their subjects for a new and better loyalty (i. 5; ii. 26 f.; xi. 15 ff.; xii. 5; xv. 3-4; xvii. 14; xix. 11 ff.). Through the church he is to mediate God's forgiveness and lead the world to repentance (iii. 7-9; xi. 13; xiv. 6-7; xx. 1-6)." **G.B. Caird** (quoted in New Studies in Biblical Theology - God's Mediators: A Biblical Theology of Priesthood (NSBT))

...THIS is the ministry that Jesus described that He was anointed for in Luke 4!! ...a Royal Priesthood that mediates God's Gospel Forgiveness and His Sovereign Rule!!

"The people of Israel are expected to leverage their special priestly status toward a special priestly function. They are to live as a holy, godly nation so that other nations are drawn to their God... to guard Yahweh's holiness and to advertise the privilege of being counted as his chosen attendants. ...Thus a biblical theology of priesthood not only abets 'active' doctrines of mission and evangelism but also enhances ore 'passive' doctrines of Christian identity and ecclesiology." **Andrew Malone**, God's Mediators: A Biblical Theology of Priesthood (NSBT)

7 Priestly Activities:

- ✓ Gospel Witness Offerings
- ✓ All-of-Life Offering
- ✓ Affectionate, Expressed Worship Offerings
- ✓ Offering of Circumspect, Providentially Informed, Reverence & Awe
- ✓ Personal Sacrifice Offerings
- ✓ Financial Offerings
- ✓ Prayer Offerings

**Keith's Gonna
be a PRIEST!**