

FL209 The Three Steps of Prayer

Chapters one, two and three of Leviticus teach 3 basic offerings. These are, respectively, [1] the Burnt Offering [BO], [2] the Meat Offering [MO], and [3], the Peace Offering [PO].

Substances of BOs and POs are flesh, the substance of all MOs is wheat. Grain or Cereal are more fitting for MOs than Meat. These details aside, these 3 offerings represent 3 steps of prayer.

These chapters contain instructions concerning these 3 offerings such as details of substances and operations, but this lesson focuses on the basic meanings of the offerings, “The Three Steps of Prayer.”

The Burnt Offering — Bullocks

Burnt Offerings [BO] represent deep feelings of the heart. Your heart and soul are synonymous. Matters that burden you beyond your ability to understand become a fire that consumes your spirit and soul.

This is the law of the burnt offering: It is the burnt offering, because of the burning upon the altar all night unto the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be burning in it, [Le. 6:9].

Symbols that represent the substance being consumed divides into two groups — the herd and flock, [Le. 1:2]. The herd comprises the larger cattle — bullocks and heifers; the flock comprises the smaller cattle — sheep and goats.

Males represent spirit; females represent flesh. Bullocks are symbols for this sacrifice because the BO consumes the spirit and soul. The bullock’s death [Le. 1:5] shows deep feelings of darkness as inferred by the Law, [Le. 6:9].

The 1st story in First Samuel [1:1-11] tells of Elkanah and his two wives — Peninnah and Hannah. The former had children, but the latter was barren. Oppression from Peninnah and depression by a barren womb ignited a fire in Hannah’s soul.

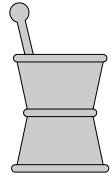
1Sa 1:10-11: And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

The Grain Offering — Flour

Hannah’s bitterness was a Burnt Offering. Bitterness is synonymous with death. The words she spoke were a Grain Offering. Words are as seeds; wheat seeds become flour.

The words of Hannah’s prayer describe the burning within her heart. However, the Grain Offering is *fine flour* and not seeds [Le. 2:1]. So then, there is a step between the burnings in the soul and the words of the mouth.

Upper and lower millstones and “*pestles in mortars*” make fine flour of the inner kernels of wheat seeds. Like clouds in the heavens, fine flour represents thoughts in the mind.



Thus, burnings in the soul ascend from the heart into the mind. And from the mind, the thoughts of the heart exit the believer as words from the mouth. This takes us to The Peace Offering.

The Peace Offering

Like the Burnt Offering, the sacrifice of the Peace Offering is flesh. In this offering, the thoughts of the mind of the soul become words from the mouth.

Unlike the Burnt Offering, the animal sacrifice can be male or female. Male POs represent the spirit of the prayer; female POs represent the body of the prayer, i.e., the words themselves.

This male or female option allows for 3 possibilities. [1] Male POs represent only the spirit of prayer. [2] Female POs represent only the words of prayer. [3] Female POs can represent both the spirit and the words of the prayer.

The above choice may not lead to a simpler perception of POs. But Strong’s definition of peace reveals an important point; H8002 shows that POs are voluntary offerings of thanks.

Consider how closely this agrees with what Jesus said in Mr. 11:24: “*Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*”

Does Mr. 11:24 agree with one of those 3 possibilities? If not, if we don’t give thanks when we pray have we made a PO? I will revise this lesson when the Lord, or perhaps a reader, reveals the answer.

Ovens, Pans & Frying Pans

Leviticus 2:1-3 tell how to prepare MOs of fine flour. The priest takes a handful and offers a memorial, and the remainder of the flour is his to keep. The memorial shows that God reads your mind and remembers what He read [Mt. 6:8].

But let’s get back to the prayer’s journey from the heart to the mouth. Leviticus 2:4-7 shows this journey using baking utensils. The text covers some interesting details, but I will focus on the utensils.

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Ovens represents hearts: *“For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire,”* [Ho 7:6].

Ovens are hot, heat represents passion, and passion ignites the soul to mourn a death in whatever spiritual form it takes. When you bake a MO in an oven you offer a Burnt Offering, [Le. 2:5]. In ancient times, some ovens were underground; in modern times they are under stove tops or mounted in kitchen cabinets.

In Le 2:7, you bake your MO in a frying-pan. Because of its cover, it is a stove-top oven. Your heart is below your stove-top and your head is the top of your stove. Keep your mind open and your mouth closed, and you bake your MO in a [covered] pan.

In Le. 2:5, you bake your MO in a pan. Expositors say these pans are uncovered. After ascending from your heart to your mind, your bread moves into your open pan [mouth] and your bread [words] exit your mouth.

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