

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA
Part XXIX
Hebrews 13:15

Introduction: It is paramount that we recognize that the sacrifice of praise creates an atmosphere of healing and miracles. This continuum underscores that praise is a confession of Christ! *Hebrews 13:15*. When the entirety of a congregation is praising God at the same time, there is an incomprehensible massive flow of divine energy that fills the atmosphere. The unity of Scriptural confession moves against the power of strongholds, promoting the healing virtue of Jesus to heal. Our praise confesses that we believe that Jesus has already won the victory for us and that His Word is effectively working on our behalf as we worship Him. We may waver at first and be caught in the tension between symptoms and the unchanging truths of God's Word, but praise and worship will ultimately lead us to victory.

I. God's magnificent idea

A. The good confession. *1st Timothy 6:12*.

1. The book of Hebrews' main theme is the high priesthood of Jesus. It is the revelation of the ministry that Jesus has at the right hand of the Father on our behalf. He offers prayers for us, and He is the surety for the fulfillment of God's promises on our behalf. *Hebrews 7:22*.
2. Also, the high priesthood of Jesus Christ on our behalf is directly linked to the confession of our mouths. Our confession limits the extent Jesus can minister to us. *Hebrews 3:1*. Jesus ministers over our confession. Each time we make the right confession, we have the whole authority of Christ as our High Priest behind us. A wrong confession shuts the system down.
3. In *Hebrews 4:14*, the writer again links the high priesthood of Jesus to our confession. The emphasis is on our holding fast to our confession so that He can continue with His high priestly ministry in our life.
4. *Hebrews 10:23*. Here, the writer for the third time stresses the connection between Christ's priesthood and our confession. Once we make the right confession that lines up with the Word of God, we must not waver and go back to a position of unbelief.
5. Notice the importance of a right confession. In *Hebrews 3:1*, we are told that Jesus is the *High Priest of our confession*. In *Hebrews 4:14*, we are exhorted to *hold fast to our confession*. In *Hebrews 10:23*, we are encouraged to *hold fast to our confession without wavering*. The warning here is that there will be a temptation to go back to doubting because of symptoms that are contrary to what we are confessing.
6. This helps us to better understand *Hebrews 13:15*. Praise is described in this Scripture as an act of confession to His Name and all that His Name inculcates, and it says that we should do this continually.
7. The devil wants you to praise God by how you feel, because in that way he can manipulate your thoughts. That is why we are taught to "*walk by faith and not by (natural) sight*." So he says, "*Hold fast to your confession*."
8. The same is true with the sacrifice of praise. We must *stand strong* in the midst of *contrary pressure* and praise God anyway. Likewise, we must also *stand fast* in our good confession.
9. As we make this a daily practice in our life, our Personal Representative goes before His Holiness, God Almighty, and presents our needs to Him in our stead.

Conclusion: The writer of the Proverbs warns us that we can be defeated with a wrong confession. *Proverbs 6:2*. Praising God and holding to our good confession should become part and parcel of our life. Remember that Paul strongly urges us to hold fast to our *good* confession. *1st Timothy 6:12*. The more we confess the truth of God's Word, the more equipped the heart becomes. Then the good confession will be more than just words but truth coming out of our heart. *Matthew 12:34*.