

GENERAL SUBJECT: BEING A PRIEST IN THE LORD'S RECOVERY

Message One

The Definition of a Priest

(1)

A Person Who Is Absolutely for God

Scripture Reading: Exo. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10

- I. A priest is a person who is absolutely for God, who is fully possessed by God, and who lives and has his being wholly for God; in every respect and in every way, his unique interest is God—1 Pet. 2:5, 9.**
- II. A priest is a person who lives solely for God's interests and serves Him—Exo. 19:6; Rom. 14:7-8; 2 Cor. 5:15:**
 - A. Priests are the most normal and proper persons, those who realize that God's plan is to work Himself into a group of people in order that He might be their life and that they might become His expression—1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6.
 - B. A normal and proper human being is one who is a priest, one who serves God; if we are not priests serving God in all that we do, we are abnormal—5:10.
- III. A priest is one who receives God, who is filled, saturated, and permeated with God, and who has God flowing out of him so that he might be a living expression of God—1 Pet. 2:5, 9:**
 - A. Although a priest is a person who serves God, this does not mean that he works for God or does something for God; according to the revelation of the Scriptures, to serve God is to contact God, to receive God into us, and to be filled, saturated, and permeated with God—Rom. 1:9; 8:11.
 - B. God's intention is not to call us merely to work for Him; His intention is that we first open ourselves to Him in order that He may come into us to fill and flood us until He has taken possession of every part of our being—Eph. 3:16-21.
 - C. Our entire being must be saturated, permeated, and possessed by God—1 Thes. 5:23:
 1. If this is our situation, we will be one with God and will not only be clothed outwardly with Him as power but also permeated inwardly with Himself as everything—Luke 24:49; Eph. 5:18.
 2. As we are saturated, permeated, and possessed by God, spontaneously He will flow out of us, and we will be built up with others in this flow of life—John 7:38; Eph. 2:21-22.
 - D. God has no intention of calling us to do something *for* Him; rather, His intention is that we answer His call by opening ourselves to Him and saying, "Lord, here I am, not ready to work for You but ready to be filled and possessed by You and to be one with You."
 - E. Not until we are one with the Lord and possessed by Him can we ever work for Him—3:16-21; 1 Cor. 3:9a; 15:58; 2 Cor. 5:20; 6:1.
- IV. A priest is a person who ministers to the Lord—Acts 13:1-4a:**
 - A. "As they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them"—v. 2:

1. The work of the church in Antioch began during a time of ministering to the Lord.
 2. All our work for the Lord must issue from this priestly service of ministering to the Lord; this is the unique principle for the work of the New Testament.
- B. The work of the Holy Spirit can be revealed only at a time of ministering to the Lord—v. 2:
1. If we do not place ministering to the Lord as the top priority, everything will be out of order.
 2. Only at a time of ministering to the Lord will the Holy Spirit send some forth.