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SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

It was a dismal winter day in Michigan. I was preparing for Church. I was teaching eighth graders in Sunday School, and many of them had received the Lord, and several were witnessing to their friends. I hadn't wanted to teach that class, but God had other plans for me. I have learned over the years the hard way that if God asks you to do something then it is best to comply.

As I was getting ready the phone rang and a friend explained to me about a tragedy. A young college student had taken her own life. It was very devastating. I won't go into the circumstances of what happened, but it totally shook me up. After I hung up, I heard the Lord speak to me. He said, "Praise me!"

Immediately I said, "How can I praise you with what just happened?"

Again, He said, "Praise me!"

Again, I responded, "How can I praise you with what just happened?"

Then He spoke to me and said, "Praise me!"

I knew that I had to do just that. I said in a very reluctant voice, "Praise you Lord."

He said it again, "Praise me! Let me hear you!"

I said it a little louder, and said it again, until I could say it willfully as a sacrifice of praise.

Immediately he showed me a vision of a puzzle with a piece missing. The Lord spoke again, "Do you see that missing piece?"

I said, "Yes."

He said to me, "That piece was her. Her shape is different than any of the other pieces that have been in your life. Nothing can replace her." Then He went on to say, "If you allow me, I will fill that void."

I said, "Oh yes, Lord, fill the void."

When we give God sacrificial praise *in* hard circumstances, not *for* the circumstances, then His peace will come.

It says in Hebrews 13:15, ***“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”***

We can only give praise in hard circumstances sacrificially. It is not a natural thing. It is a choice that we have to make.

After doing just that on that Sunday, I shared the vision God gave me, and it brought great comfort to the church family that suffered that loss.

Perhaps you are going through a “hard time” right now. I can guarantee that a sacrifice of praise will help you get through it. Praise is a weapon that defeats Satan. Through praise we can overthrow strongholds that have got ahold of us. You have nothing to lose if you try it, but everything to gain when it works.