

LIFE SPEAKS TO US!

By Bill C. Dotson



PRIESTS...are found in many religions, Christian and otherwise. Some that quickly come to mind are Jewish, Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican. They are ordained clergymen who have the authority and are trained to perform or administer various religious rites. Some are called to act as mediators between men and their understanding of divinity or gods. Most of us would associate them with white collars, black robes, hats or caps, beards and distinctive jewelry.

In certain religions, there are both priests and priestesses. While in Cuba on a mission trip I met a Santeria priestess on the streets of Havana. She was smoking a large Cuban cigar and was sitting on the sidewalk. We had some dialogue but it led to nothing.

Most Western Christian denominations, since the Reformation, have adopted a more understanding of New Testament church officers; bishops, pastors, deacons and elders. All of these are also ordained to carry out their duties. I have personally served as a deacon and then elder at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. Each role serves as priestly functions in a variety of ways.



Recently while studying and teaching from the book of Hebrews, the office of priest became quite significant in my mind. There were eighty-four high priests and multiple lower priests in Israel from Aaron to the Roman destruction of the temple. They offered animal or blood sacrifices for the sins of the people. They interceded for the people and for themselves. Because these were human priests, the sacrifices had to be performed daily by the Levitical priesthood and annually on the Day of Atonement. All were pointing toward the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, the Christ, their Messiah who became our eternal High Priest.

"For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself" ([Heb. 7:26,27](#)).

Jesus is there at the right hand of the Father, running the universe and making intercession for us. He is intent on making us into effective priests for His kingdom use. When He brought Dallas Real Estate Ministries into existence some 30 years ago, He led me to these verses in 1 Peter 2. ***"Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, To offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" ([v. 4,5](#)).***

Not only are we being built into a spiritual house as living stones and made into a holy priesthood, He goes into more depth through Peter in [verse 9](#). Be honest, can you even imagine this about yourself; are you able to get your mind around these promises? ***"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."***

Unholy people are now, in Christ, a... *spiritual house*

- *holy priesthood*
- *chosen generation*
- *royal priesthood*
- *holy nation*
- *His own special people!*

WOW!!! Maybe it's okay to walk with a humble swagger. Probably not! But it sure sheds a whole new light on whom we have become.

Priests... *have access to God, minister, offer spiritual sacrifices (praise & good works) and intercede!* Maybe an examination of our daily routine as priests in the kingdom of our Lord is appropriate. Is this who I am in my family, at work or recreation, at church or in ministry?

No collar, no long beard or no headdress, no black robe, no special jewelry! Just the overflowing joy of Jesus in our hearts, the word of God in our mind, praise on our lips and a prayerful attitude all the day! Looking for that next opportunity to minister as the priest whom we have been called to become-because our Great High Priest has made it possible. He is not just cheering us on; He has given us His power to succeed through the infilling presence of His Spirit. You cannot fail! He gives us His assurance.

"But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them"

([Heb. 7:24,25](#)).

So...awaken, get up, worship and make some intercession, shave that long beard, wipe that downtrodden frown from your face, leave your hats, jewelry and long robe at home-and start ministering like the priest that **you are**. He has appointed someone for whom you are to minister to today! Count on it!!! Look for it!!! (Ladies, you are very much included, but skip the beard part!)

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Scriptures taken from the New King James Version