

Priests

The first thing to clarify is that both men and women are called to be priests in the royal priesthood that Peter speaks of.

1 Corinthians 12 v 29

All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?

1 Corinthians 14 v 1

Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14 v 5

Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

1 Corinthians 14 v 22

So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.

1 Corinthians 12 v 31

But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 14 v 39

Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues.

The New Testament priest is to carry out the tasks that we will see later in this study.

The Qualifications of the Priest in the Old Testament

Moses (means drawn out) and Aaron (means bright) were chosen. Aaron was a descendant of the tribe of Levi (means joined).

God chose Aaron to be a priest and a prophet alongside Moses. They became both prophet and voice to the people.

Exodus 7 v 1-2

Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I make you as God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. 2 You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall speak to Pharaoh that he let the sons of Israel go out of his land.

They Were Chosen by God.

Exodus 28 v 1-2

"Then bring near to yourself Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, to minister as priest to Me - Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons. You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

Exodus 39 v 27-29

They made the tunics of finely woven linen for Aaron and his sons, 28 and the turban of fine linen, and the decorated caps of fine linen, and the linen breeches of fine twisted linen, 29 and the sash of fine twisted linen, and blue and purple and scarlet material, the work of the weaver, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

They Wore Special Garments.

Leviticus 20 v 26

Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

They Were to be Separated from the People

Leviticus 21 v 17-23

"Speak to Aaron, saying, 'No man of your offspring throughout their generations who has a defect shall approach to offer the food of his God.

18 For no one who has a defect shall approach: a blind man, or a lame man, or he who has a disfigured face, or any deformed limb, 19 or a man who has a broken foot or broken hand, 20 or a hunchback or a dwarf, or one who has a defect in his eye or eczema or scabs or crushed testicles. 21 No man among the descendants of Aaron the priest who has a defect is to come near to offer the LORD's offerings by fire; since he has a defect, he shall not come near to offer the food of his God. 22 He may eat the food of his God, both of the most holy and of the holy, 23 only he shall not go in to the veil or come near the altar because he has a defect, so that he will not profane My sanctuaries. For I am the LORD who sanctifies them."

They Were to be Physically Perfect.

Exodus 29 v 4

Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting and wash them with water.

They Were to be Ritually Clean.

The Duties of the Priest in the Old Testament

Hebrews 5 v 1-3

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; 2 he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness; 3 and because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself.

They Were to Offer Gifts and Sacrifices.

Leviticus 16 v 1-4

Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of the LORD and died. 2 The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

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3 Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on.

They Were to Prepare Themselves for Redemption.

Psalm 84 v 2

My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

They Were to Seek God's Mind.

1 Kings 1 v 34

Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there as king over Israel, and blow the trumpet and say, 'Long live King Solomon!'

They were to Anoint Kings.

Numbers 6 v 22-27

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: 24 The LORD bless you, and keep you; 25 the LORD make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; 26 The LORD lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.' 27 So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them."

They were to Bless the People.

In the New Testament we see that Jesus is our High Priest, He was the greater and more perfect sacrifice given for us.

Hebrews 3 v 1-2

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; 2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house.

Hebrews 10 v 19-22

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

We are to **draw near to God** and to one another with sincere hearts fully trusting in God, knowing that we are able to remain clean.

Hebrews 10 v 23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

We are to consider how to **stimulate** one another, not only our own lives, but the lives of those who are our brothers and sisters in Jesus. The exhortation is to love and to do good deeds to love and serve one another. We are to **meet together** in the various fellowship activities that take place in our churches, being aware that we need one another, that we are part of one another and realise that these years we live in are the end times.

Hebrews 10 v 26-28

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.

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28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

It is a sin not to do these things! The scripture goes on to express strongly the fruit of ignoring God's instruction to His people, priests and prophets.

When we become Christians we look to Jesus to lead us and to guide us in our daily lives. He has done all the things that are advocated in this study, there is no other way, no other method or strategy. Followers of Jesus are to become like Him, in character and in the demonstration of their daily lives.

The Duties of Every Christian - Man and Woman, Priests Prophets and Ministers.

Isaiah 61 v 1-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; 2 To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, 3 to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. 4 Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations; and they will repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. 5 Strangers will stand and pasture your flocks, and foreigners will be your farmers and your vinedressers. 6 But you will be called the priests of the LORD; you will be spoken of as ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. 7 Instead of your shame you will have a double portion, and instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land, everlasting joy will be theirs.

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8 For I, the LORD, love justice, I hate robbery in the burnt offering; and I will faithfully give them their recompense and make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Then their offspring will be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them because they are the offspring whom the LORD has blessed. 10 I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

We are to complete the work of Jesus on earth, in His place. We are to have **confidence** to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus. He has cleansed us and given us a new and living way to follow.