

तथा श्रीमद्भागवतमें भी प्रह्लादजीने कहा है—

श्रवणं कीर्तनं विष्णोः स्मरणं पादसेवनम् ।
अर्चनं वन्दनं दास्यं सख्यमात्मनिवेदनम् ॥

(७।५।२३)

‘भगवान् विष्णुके नाम, रूप, गुण और प्रभावादिका श्रवण, कीर्तन और स्मरण तथा भगवान्की चरणसेवा, पूजन और वन्दन एवं भगवान्में दासभाव, सखाभाव और अपनेको समर्पण कर देना—यह नौ प्रकारकी भक्ति है।’

- 1) श्रवणं (śravaṇaṁ) - Listening to the Glories of the Lord.
- 2) कीर्तनं (kīrtanaṁ) - Singing of the Lord's names.
- 3) स्मरणं (smaraṇaṁ) - Remembering (or Recollecting) the play (lilas) stories of the Lord.
- 4) पादसेवनं (pādasevanaṁ) - pāda means feet, seva means service.
- 5) अर्चनं (arcanāṁ) - Worship of Lord's form with the help of rituals such as puṣā.
- 6) वन्दनं (vandanāṁ) - Prostration to Lord with respect and Love.
- 7) दास्यं (dāsyāṁ) - The devotee is developing the feeling of being servant to Lord.
- 8) सख्यं (sakhyāṁ) - Bhāva with Lord picturing Him as best friend. Friendship is between equals.
- 9) आत्मनिवेदनं (ātmanivedanaṁ) - (ātmanivedanaṁ) One's complete surrender; one's ego is totally offered to the Lord.

(१) सतां सङ्गतिः = सत्संग. (२) मत्कथालाषः = भारा जन्म-कर्मोनी कथानु
 कीर्तन. (३) मद्गुणेरणम् = भारा गुणोनी यर्था. (४) व्याख्यातृत्वं मद्रचसाम् =
 गीता, उपनिषद् वगेरे भारा वयनोनी व्याख्या करवी. (५) आचार्योपासनम् =
 निष्कपट थर्ध लगवद्-शुद्धिथी आचार्यनी सेवा-शुश्रूषा करवी. (६) पुण्यशीलत्वं
 यमादि नियमादि च ॥ = पवित्र स्वभाव, यमनियमादितुं पावन तथा भारी
 पूजनां नित्य निष्ठा. (७) मम मन्त्रोपासकत्वं साङ्गं = भारा मन्त्रनी साङ्गोपाङ्ग
 उपासना करवी. (८) मद्भक्तेष्वधिका पूजा सर्वभूतेषु मन्मतिः ॥ ब्राह्मार्थेषु विरागित्वं
 शमादिसहितं तथा ॥ = भारा लक्ष्मोनी भाराथी पणु अधिक पूजा करवी,
 सर्वभूतो विषे भारी भावना करवी, आद्य पदार्थोभां वैराग्य तथा शमदमादि
 साधनसंपन्न थवुं अते (९) तत्त्वविचारः = तत्त्वने विचार करवो, ये नव
 भारी लक्षितनां साधने छे [अ. रा. अर. १०-२२-२७].

“ एवं नवविधा भक्तिः साधनं यस्य कस्य वा [अ. रा. अर. १०-२७] ” अे
 प्रमाणे नव प्रकारनी लक्षित छे. ते विषे अे नव लक्षितनां साधने होय ते स्त्री,

॥ नवधा भक्ति ॥

(रामचरितमानस : अरण्यकाण्ड : ३४.७ से ३५.८ तक)

नवधा भगति कहउँ तोहि पाहीं ।
सावधान सुनु धरु मन माहीं ॥
प्रथम भगति संतन्ह कर संगी ।
दूसरि रति मम कथा प्रसंगी ॥ ४ ॥

दो.- गुर पद पंकज सेवा तीसरि भगति अमान ॥
चौथि भगति मम गुन गन करइ कपट तजि गान ॥ ३५ ॥

चौ.-मंत्र जाप मम दृढ़ बिस्वासा ।
पंचम भजन सो बेद प्रकासा ॥
छठ दम सील बिरति बहु करमा ।
निरत निरंतर सज्जन धरमा ॥ १ ॥

सातवँ सम मोहि मय जग देखा ।
मोतें संत अधिक करि लेखा ॥
आठवँ जथालाभ संतोषा ।
सपनेहुँ नहिं देखइ परदोषा ॥ २ ॥

नवम सरल सब सन छलहीना ।
मम भरोस हियँ हरष न दीना ॥
नव महुँ एकउ जिन्ह कें होई ।
नारि पुरुष सचराचर कोई ॥ ३ ॥

सोइ अतिसय प्रिय भामिनि मोरें ।
सकल प्रकार भगति दृढ़ तोरें ॥
जोगि बृंद दुरलभ गति जोई ।
तो कहँ आजु सुलभ भइ सोई ॥ ४ ॥

NAVADHA BHAKTI (9 STEPS TO DEVOTION)

Shabri wanted to learn more from Sri Ram about the path of Bhakti (Devotion)

Sri Ram explained:

1) ***Pratham Bhagati Santan kar sangaa***

Which means: The first step to devotion (Bhakti) is to keep company of the Saintly

2) ***Doosri rati mam kathaa prasangaa***

Which means: The second step is to enjoy listening to discourses pertaining to the Lord.

3) ***Guru pankaj seva, teesri bhakti amaan***

Which means: The third step, is to believe, humbly in Guru/God.

4) ***Chouthi Bhagati mam gun gaan, karai kapat tajee gaan***

Which means: The fourth step is earnestly (without hypocrisy) sing the praises of the Lord.

5) ***Mantra jaap mam dridh Visvaasaa, Pancham, bhajan jo Ved Prakaasaa***

Which means: Chant the Vedic Mantras with immense faith.

6) ***Chattha dasa seela birati bahu karmaa, nirat nirantara sajjan dharmaa***

Which means: The sixth step is not to react in adverse circumstances, yet act, perform ones karma, like the great ones do.

7) ***Saatvam sam mohi main jag dekhaa, motey sant adhik kar lekhaa***

Which means: The seventh step is to perceive the world as God Himself. And believe the saintly to be greater than the Lord.

8) ***Aathvam jathaa laabh santoshaa, sapneu nahin, dekhai par doshaa***

Which means: The eighth, is a state (which one arrives at when one travels the first seven steps) where there is no desire left, but the gift of perfect peace. (In this state) one does not see fault in others, even in a dream.

9) ***Navam saral sab san chhal heena, mam bharos heenya harsh na deenaa***

Which means: In this state one has full faith in the Lord, becomes (child-like) simple with no hypocrisy. In this state, he does not fly high or sink low (but becomes equanimous). Sri Ram adds that Shabri's Bhakti is perfectly complete.

Yet if anyone were to have taken even one step towards devotion, out of all nine, he/she would be very dear to the Lord.