

PRAISE ... GOD

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving
and into His courts with praise:
Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."

You may pray every day, but do you praise? It may not be something you need to understand more about but do more of! This study will guarantee both if you are open.

I. WHAT IS PRAISE? Take time to reflect on this "all encompassing" definition by Manning. "Praise consists in the love of God, in wonder at the goodness of God, in recognition of the gifts of God, in seeing God in all things that He gives us, even in the things He refuses us; so as to see our whole life in the light of God; and seeing this, to bless Him, adore Him and glorify Him."

Basic definition:

- to extol, raise, or lift up.
- to set a price on, to acclaim, appraise, or commend the worth of someone or something.
- to laud or glorify (extravagant praise).
- to honor or give great respect to, to hold in highest regard.
- to express strong approval and admiration of someone or something.

Spiritual definition: "Sentence Sermons"

1. Praise is the vocal or visible adoration of God.
2. Praise is the acknowledgement that we appreciate God's providence toward us.
3. Praise is the proclamation of Who God is as well as what He has done.
4. Praise is an integral part of worship (Col.3:16; Eph.5:19-20).
5. Praise is the evidence of a Spirit filled life (Eph.5:18-20).
6. Praise is the index of a heart that's humble enough to know that all its "good" comes from outside itself ... God.
7. Praise is God's address! Ps.22:3 - "He inhabits praise."
8. Praise is not "escaping" from our personal responsibilities or "avoiding" our problems, but rather, expressing faith that God is far greater than my problems and circumstances.

II. WHO IS TO PRAISE HIM?

Psalm 150:6
Psalm 148:1-12
Heb.2:12 (Jesus Christ!)

III. WHY DO WE PRAISE GOD?

Ps.18:3
Ps.48:1
Ps.149:4
Ps.22:3
Ps.148:13
Ps.147:1
Ps.50:14,23
Ps.33:1
Ps.92:1
1 Pet.2:9
Heb.13:15; Psalms
Ps.50:23

It's commanded more than any other command in Scripture!

IV. WHAT DO WE PRAISE THE LORD FOR?

- Ps.139:14
- Ps.21:13
- Ps.35:28
- Ps.138:2
- Ps.107:15,21,31
- Ps.96:2
- Ps.99:3
- 1 Chron.29:13
- Ps.89:5
- Ps.145:4
- Ps.105:1-2
- Ps.56:4
- Ps.56:10
- 2 Cor.9:15

Take each one separately and list at least 10 specific ways how you've experienced the above, and why you can personally praise Him for His ... power, mercy ...

V. WHEN DO WE PRAISE THE LORD?

- Ps.58:8-9
- Ps.71:6
- Ps.34:1
- Ps.35:28
- Ps.113:3
- Ps.146:2
- Ps.145:1-2
- Ps.72:15
- Ps.119:164
- Ps.119:62
- Acts 16:25
- Eph.5:19-20
- Phil.4:4
- James 5:13

VI. WHERE DO WE PRAISE THE LORD?

- Ps.9:11
- Ps.107:32
- Acts 16:25
- Ps.18:49
- Ps.100
- Ps.150:1
- 1 Thes.5:18
- Ps.148
- Ps.138:1

VII. HOW DO WE PRAISE GOD?

- Ps.95:6
- Ps.47:1
- Ps.35:27
- Ps.5:11
- Ps.63:3-5
- Ps.134:2
- 2 Chron.6:12-13
- 1 Tim.2:8
- Ps.57:7
- Acts 3:8
- Ps.150
- Ps.96:1
- Ps.47:6
- Ps.145:1-21
- Ps.36:5-9
- Ps.69:30
- Ps.106:12
- Ps.33:1
- Ps.149:3
- Rev.19:3-7
- Ps.9:1-2
- Ps.66:17-18
- Ps.98:1
- Ps.96:1
- Ps.95:12
- Ps.100:1-4
- 1 Cor.14:15

VIII. WHAT DOES PRAISE DO FOR GOD'S PEOPLE?

- 2 Chron.5:13-14

Praise preceeds and prepares for deliverance

- 2 Chron.20:17-72
- Jonah 2:1-10
- Acts 16:20-30

Ps.50:13-17

Ps.50:22-23

Acts 2:47

1 Cor.14:16

IX. WHAT ELSE?

- It releases our spirit from heaviness (Isa.61:3).
- It frees us from selfish thinking.
- It frees us from self centered living.
- It keeps us in a right attitude for obedience (Ps.61:8).
- It teaches us the discipline of magnifying the good in everything.
- It invites the reality of God's presence into our lives (Ps.22:30).
- It causes Satan to retreat.
- It lifts us into His presence.
- It purifies our character.

OTHER THOUGHTS

"Praising God is singularly beneficial to ourselves. If we have more of it, we should be greatly blessed. What would lift us so much above the trials of life, what would help us to bear the burden and heat of the day so well as songs of praise unto the Most High?" - C.H. Spurgeon

As much as God loves our praise, Satan would hate it, and therefore try to keep us from it, or at least he may deceive us into worshipping or praising anything or anyone else other than God!

X. WHERE DO "I" BEGIN?

PRAISE STUDY

Observe the Who, What, When, Where, Hows and Whys of the following Scriptural examples of praise.

Ex.15:1-21 (Moses)	Psalm 35:18, 27
Judges 5 (Deborah)	40:3
1 Sam.2:1-10 (Hannah)	42:11
2 Sam.22 (David)	43:5
1 Chron.16:8-38 (David)	47:1, 6
1 Chron.29:10-19 (David)	48:1
2 Chron.7:1-10 (Solomon)	50:23
Psalm 5:11	51:15
7:17	52:9
9:1-2, 11	54:6
13:6	56:4, 10, 12
18:3, 49	57:7, 9
22:3	63:3-5
28:6	66:1-10
29:2	66:16-20
32:11	67:1-7
33:1	68:3-6
34:1	68:19-20

SUGGESTIONS ON PRAISE

1. Read through the list of Psalms in this study at least once a month.
2. Latch on to a few favorites and memorize them.
3. Pray or "praise" certain favorite verses back to God.
4. Make a list of WHO God is, starting with the letter "A" and go through the alphabet. This is a good family devotional!
5. Make a practical list of WHO God is to you personally and how you have experienced that particular attribute (in the past, present, and future).
6. Make a list of WHAT He has done for you personally, starting with the letter "A" and go through the alphabet (in the past, present, and future).
7. Make a special tape of your favorite "Praise Songs" to keep handy and play it when you need to. (Daily)?
8. Share all of the above with others. Each day make it a point to praise God to one other person.
9. Go through a hymn book (if you need one, see me) and sing through at least one praise song a day. If you do it in the morning it will stay with you all day!
10. Attend all the church services and really think about the words you're singing, and sing them as though you have never sung them before!
11. Make it a point to learn new songs.
12. Make an effort to be creative. Do something different every day so that things don't get stale or boring. Be alert to suggestions from others and make a list so you can keep things fresh.

CONCLUSION

"BUT I DON'T "FEEL" like giving praise to God", and if I give thanks or force myself to praise God, isn't that hypocritical? NO! You're never a hypocrite for following Scripture and doing what the Lord commands you to do - just be honest with God about it!

Praise is not primarily an expression of feelings, it is most of all a matter of faith and an exercise of the will. We must realize that we have to go against our feelings and lean not on ourselves; obeying and praising is an act of our will. The Psalmist said "My heart is fixed... I will sing praise", "I will give thanks", "I will bless His name." You see, it's when we feel lousy or when things all seem to be going wrong, that we are to offer the "sacrifice" of praise to God. It not only evidences our faith in God but prepares our attitude for obedience and victory! So don't just say "Praise the Lord" - Go ahead and do it!

Praise His Name and See It Happen
Praise His Name and You Will Never Be the Same

FOR FURTHER AVAILABLE STUDY MATERIAL SEE:

- Worship: Are You Involved or Just A Spectator?
- Who Is God?
- Psalms Study: A Devotional Experience
- The Names of God
- The Sovereignty of God
- The Fatherhood of God