

## ☞ Principles of Praise series

### The Purpose of Praise

☞ **Praise = words that express admiration.** It is nearly synonymous with **thanksgiving.**

Praise is a part of us... The roar of the crowd when their team wins the Big Game. The cheers at the dining room table as you win the board game. The thunderous applause at the concert's finale. The mom and dad cheering wildly as their son takes his bow as Rock #2 in the Kindergarten play. Praise is inherent in each and every one of us. We praise what we value. We praise what we support. We praise what we love.

But what about our praises to God? Because we love and value him, praise should flow naturally out of us. But sometimes lack of understanding, fear of embarrassment, and pride can cause our praise to be silenced.

Some of the examples I just mentioned come very naturally and even sort of burst out of us. When it's a close game and your team pulls off a last-minute heroic win... you just about can't help but let out a cheer.

*--Judson Cornwall... "I wonder if we'd ever get so excited over Jesus, and what He's done for us, that we'd have to release the pressure of excitement in shouts of praise."*

*John and Elaine Beekman labored 25 years with other missionaries to translate the New Testament into the language of the Ch'ol Indians of southern Mexico. What's interesting is that when the missionaries came, the Ch'ol Indians didn't sing. With the coming of the gospel, however, the believers in the tribe became known as "the singers". "They love to sing now because they have something to sing about."*

The Bible repeatedly says, "Praise the Lord." It's a big deal in the scripture. Let's compare it to other themes that we are familiar with... The virgin birth is mentioned twice in the Bible, justification is mentioned 70 times, sanctification 72 times, baptism 80 times, and repentance 110 times. Compare this to thanksgiving being mentioned 135 times, singing 287 times, rejoicing 288 times and, finally, praise is mentioned 332 times in the Bible.

☞ Praise is **closely tied with music**: Psalm 100:2, 4 says, *Come before him with joyful songs; and, Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.* Also, Psalm 95:2 says, *Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.*

The Book of Psalms (the book of music) is the longest book in the Bible. Music is mentioned over 800 times in the Bible.

All of this shows us the importance of praise and music. It's not just because your pastor has a musical inclination. It's because it is so emphasized in the bible.

There is Purpose in Praise

☞ **Prepared for this...** Why praise? Because it is a major part of God's plan for people:

☞ **Isaiah 43:7 & 21 say that *people were created for God's glory and formed to proclaim God's praise.***

Psalm 33:1 says, *it is fitting for the upright to praise him.*

1 Peter 2:9 says *we are chosen to declare his praises.*

Our purpose is to bring pleasure to God. One of the best ways to do that is through praise and worship. Praise and worship go together and will be our primary activities in heaven. We are presently enrolled in on-the-job training for eternity. If we feel out of place worshiping here, imagine how awkward we will feel in eternity. (For a clear picture of what worship will be like in eternity study Revelation 4:8-11, Revelation 5:9-11, Revelation 7:9-12, and Revelation 19:1-8.) We were and are destined to praise God.

☞ **Proper protocol**

There are guidelines for people coming near to God. In the Old Testament, the priests had very strict protocols to follow. Because of Jesus we have access to God, but there is still an expected protocol to draw near.

☞ **Psalm 100:1-4**

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. <sup>2</sup>Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. <sup>3</sup>Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup>**Enter** his gates **with thanksgiving and** his courts with **praise**; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Jesus promised He would always be with us, especially when we gather in His name (Matthew 18:20). He also promised that we will enter into His presence when we worship and praise Him.

☞ **The Pleasure of God**

We can actually have an impact on God's feelings. God has emotions... Jesus wept; the Holy Spirit can be grieved; and we can please God...

☞ **Hebrews 13:15-16**

let us continually offer to God **a sacrifice of praise**—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. <sup>16</sup>And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices **God is pleased.**

Psalm 149:3-4

Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.  
<sup>4</sup>For the Lord takes delight in his people

John 4:23

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

Praise please God and attracts his attention. He is actively looking for those who praise ☞ and seek him. **He pursues us when we praise him.** He is drawn to our praises and ultimately dwells in our praises.

### ☞ **The Presence of God**

According to **Psalm 22:3, God inhabits the praises of his people.**

As followers of Christ, we long to experience the presence of God. You can feel the presence of God in a powerful way when you are praising and worshiping. I can tell a difference when I'm putting all I have into my worship experience, as opposed to when I'm not. We enter into the presence of God through praise and worship.

When Moses left God's presence in Exodus 34, his face was glowing. As Solomon worshiped the Lord, the glory of God filled the temple so much that the priests could not stand up to minister (2 Chronicles 5:13-14). Throughout the Bible, when people experienced the presence of God they were changed (Isaiah 6:1-8).

### ☞ **Personal Benefit**

We should praise and worship God simply because we love him. But it is also true that we receive personal benefit when we do...

☞ **Psalm 16:11** tells us that being in His presence brings **"fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore."**

*--Debbie McDaniel... Praise gets our focus off ourselves and back on God. In our often "selfie" focused world, we need this constant reminder - life is not all about us. He desires our eyes be set firmly on Him, because that's where our true hope is found.*

*Praise brings us to a place of humility. As we praise Him as King, we admit and recognize that we're not in control, but He is. Sometimes even within our prayers, we can tend to complain about our problems. But through praise, we're focused on Him and reminded of what He has already done in our lives. We're reminded that He knows what concerns us, and is capable of taking care of all that burdens us. We're strengthened by His peace and refueled by His joy.*

**☞ Praise paves the way for God's power to be displayed.** *Praise makes the enemy flee. Evil will not stick around if we're praising our God who will fight our battles for us. People's lives are affected and changed.*

There's personal benefit when we praise the Lord.

*Fulton Oursler tells of his old nurse, sitting at the kitchen table, saying, 'Much obliged, Lord, for my vittles.' 'Anna,' I asked, 'what's a vittle?' 'It's what I've got to eat and drink, that's vittles. 'But you'd get your vittles whether you thanked the Lord or not.' 'Sure, but it makes everything taste better to be thankful.'"*

Praise is commanded for us; it is something God loves; he deserves the best we can give him; and there are great benefits in praising God. Praise and worship should be a large part of every Christian's life, and there are also clear Biblical reasons for us to praise God. There is a purpose in all God does. There is a purpose for our praise and worship of Him.

What would it be like if we praised and worshiped God with all our might? How would we be affected by His presence? One thing is sure, we will never be the same. Let's praise the Lord!

**10,000 Reasons  
Lord we come to give you honor**