

Psa. 150:6 “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!”

Most folks think of praise as fast songs, electric guitars, drums and bass; and worship as piano and strings. Ministry speakers think of praise’s purpose is to plow the hearts to prepare it for the deposit of the Word.

So, what does the word Praise really mean?

- Praise – “an expression of approval or admiration.”
- We praise God, but we also praise our children or co-worker, spouses.

God doesn’t really need our approval or admiration even though He does impressive things all the time.

We express admiration of those things through praise.

Praise is more specifically = “an expression of respect or gratitude as an act of worship.

Praise and worship are not exclusive of each other.

Worship begins with the motivation of loving and honoring God.

But that motivation must have expression and praise is one of the expressions that completes the act of worship.

Ps. 91 “I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.”

Praise is an expression of worship: why is that important?

- Many have been taught through bad theology and denominational culture that it is OK for to stand with arms crossed, mouths shut, and eyes rolling in boredom at the ceiling or across the room during praise, or showing up after the praise part of a service is over.
- We are deceived into thinking we can praise God without expressing to God.
- By its definition – praise must include expression.
- There are so many scriptures listed in the Word that tell us to express our praise – clapping, singing, dancing, shouting, lifting our hands, waving our hands.

Praise is not a feeling – it is an expression: the process of making known, conveying or putting into word’s one’s thoughts, feelings, emotions, or opinions.

How are you making know, putting into words, conveying your feelings and opinions about God?

1Peter 2:9 as priests, we have been called to make this God known to the world- To declare the praises of the One who saved us from darkness and brought us into light.

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”

You may feel admiration in your heart to God; but how are you expressing it to God and to the world?

Are you making it known and declaring Him through your praise of Him?

Why do or should we Praise?

1. We praise God because of Who He is: circumstances change; sometimes bad & sometimes good.
 - The Character of God never changes. He is completely independent of our circumstances.
 - Our situations may look bad, but God is never bad.
 - I, you, may have sickness in our bodies; but God is still our Healer.
 - The doctors may say our situation is hopeless; they’ve done all they can do; But our God is faithful and a Supernatural God who is not limited or controlled by this worlds’ issues.
 - He is strong and mighty, never lies, never leaves, never fails – regardless of the situation we may find ourselves in, we always have a reason to praise god because His character never changes.
 - Rev. 4:2-11; 5:6-14; 7:9-12; 15:2-4; 19:1-8. No matter what happens on earth, God is being praised:
 - Saints in victory – God is praised.
 - Saints facing trouble – God is praised.
 - Plagues and wars and pestilence – God is praised.
 - The antichrist shows up – God is praised.
 - The antichrist is cast down – God is praised.

God is worthy of praise no matter what is happening in any situation.

2. We praise God because of what He has done:

Only a grateful person can really praise the Lord, because thanksgiving is the essence of praise.

- Praise retells the stories of God's exploits.
- It is truth reviewed and good news proclaimed.
- Praise reminds us of what God has done and who He is so we can have reason to express admiration and gratitude toward Him.

3. We praise God because of What He is going to do:

- Sometimes through a prophecy or in prayer, we get a word about what God is going to do – that is a good reason to praise Him.
- Acts 16:25-26 Paul and Silas ended up in prison for ministering the gospel.
 - Chained hand and foot they decided to praise the Lord for His goodness.
 - They could praise God in a tough situation because of Who God is, and What He was about to do.
 - They didn't really know then, that an earthquake would happen and set their chains free and the jailor would be won to Christ.
 - But that didn't stop them from trusting God to do something good in a bad situation.
- 1Tim. 1:18 praise can become intercession that brings prophecies into being.
 - Paul told Timothy to hold onto the prophecies spoken over him, that he could do good warfare with them.
 - Praise is one of those weapons of warfare.
 - Whatever God has spoken to you about your life; God is faithful to complete the work He has started in you – Phil. 1:6.

The promises of God are many – praise them back to Him.

Praise is sometimes our greatest act of FAITH – faith that God is worthy to be praised regardless of the situation and it all looks dark and hopeless – He can turn mourning into dancing and bring good things out of bad situations.

Praise is not a denial of our circumstances.

Praise declares that God is faithful and trustworthy regardless of our situation.

Faith doesn't say: "I'll trust God if He will pull through for Me."

Faith says: "I know God can pull through for me, but I trust God regardless of what happens, because He has already proven His love for me on the cross."

David often times began his Psalms describing a bad situation – it's ok to be real with God:

- David always acknowledged the reality of his situations – but never stopped having an attitude of gratefulness – faith – and praise to God.
- Ps. 35: 1, 28 "Plead my cause, O Lord, with my adversaries; fight those who fight me."
But he ends with praise: "My tongue will speak of Your righteousness and of Your Praise all the day long."

God needs believers who can be real and yet continue to have faith and praise God so others will know and trust God even in hard times.

We don't trust God because He always does what we want – that is a low level of immaturity.

We trust God because He has already proven His love for us at the cross.

Even though we don't always understand Him; we can know that He has our best interests in His mind.

We need to stop pretending that bad things can't happen to good people – they do.

It's called life.

We need to be real and through the bad times of life have trust/faith in God and praise Him so that others can know that He is good even when life is tough.

The world is tired of seeing a plastic Christian faith that we try to hold up to them and attempt to say you live a charmed life if you serve Jesus Christ.

If bad things don't happen to good people, why are we following Jesus?

If real life doesn't happen in the life of a believer, what do we do with the lives of Joseph, David, Jeremiah, Daniel and most of the Apostles who were martyred for their faith?

Jesus is Lord of real life and He is worthy of praise in the situations of life – ALL of them.