

THE POWER OF PRAISE & WORSHIP

Why Does God Ask Us to Praise?

- ✓ I've Heard People Say: "Either your God has a massive ego problem (and constantly wants to hear how wonderful He is), or else He's hopelessly insecure and needs you to "prop Him up" so He can continue to function. Which is it? Is God a narcissist or is He insecure?" (Neither! Praise isn't for God's benefit, it's for ours!)

Six Things Praise Does (for You)

1.) Praise Silences the Devil

Psalm 8:2 – "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings you've ordained praise because of your enemies ..."

- ✓ Pull That last Phrase Out: "You've ordained praise because of Your enemies." Let that sink in! Praise doesn't exist because God needs it! Praise exists because there's an enemy, and we need help!
- ✓ Look what it happens when we praise! "... that You might silence the enemy and the avenger." (Amp)
- ✓ Has there ever been a time when you wished the devil had a "mute" button? (You're waiting for your doctor to call with the results of a test, and thoughts are flying like machine gun bullets: "It's cancer! You're going to die! What's your family going to do without you?") You don't have to listen to that! (TPT – "... praise has the power to shut Satan's mouth.")
- ✓ When you praise God, the devil's not going to stick around! God put a weapon in your mouth. Don't be afraid to use it!

2.) Praise Brings God on the Scene

Psalm 22:3 – "But you are holy, You inhabit (settle down on), are

enthroned on) the praises of Israel."

- ✓ I Like to Say it This Way: Praise builds the Throne, and the presence of God comes and rests on it. (Do you think that would make a difference?)
- ✓ God's given you the ability to change the atmosphere around you!

3.) Praise Causes Confusion in the Enemy's Camp

2 Chron. 20:14-17 – "The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahāziel, one of the men standing there. He said, 'Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says: Don't be afraid! Don't be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow, march out against them. You will find them coming up through the ascent of Ziz ... But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the Lord's victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!'

Early the next morning the army of Judah went out into the wilderness of Tekoa ... The king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising Him for His holy splendor. This is what they sang: 'Give thanks to the LORD; His mercy endures forever!' At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting amongst themselves. The armies of Moab and Ammon turned against their allies from Mount Seir and killed every one of them. After they had destroyed the army of Seir, they began attacking each other. So, when the army of Judah arrived at the lookout point in the wilderness, all they saw were dead bodies lying on the ground as far as they could see."

4.) Praise Releases the Captives

Acts 16:25-26 – "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and

immediately all the doors were opened, and **everyone's bands were loosed.**"

- ✓ I missed that for years! I thought it said, "Paul and Silas were loosed"! It didn't! When Paul and Silas praised, everyone's bands were loosed! (Maybe you came in this morning weighed down. The very *atmosphere* of praise and worship can set you free!)

5.) Praise Breaks Through Depression

Isaiah 61:3 – "He sent me to the sorrowing people in Zion, to give them beauty to replace their ashes, gladness to replace their sorrow, **the garment of expressive, joyous praise for the spirit of heaviness** ..."

- ✓ We used to sing that song, "Put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness"! Sometimes People Will Say: "Well, I'm not feeling it! I'm not going to come in here and just *put something on*." But that's what God *told* you to do! (Not "put it on" in the sense of being a hypocrite. But "put it on", like you'd put on a coat. On purpose!) Praise when you feel like crying. Move in the opposite spirit!
- ✓ Habakkuk 3:17-18 – (There are some things in life, you just have to praise your way through!)

6.) Praise Opens the Door to Blessing

Gen. 4:12 – "When you cultivate the ground, **it will resist producing good crops for you.**" (That's part of the curse that's here because of sin.)

Psalms 37:5-6 – "Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people **praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase** ..."

7.) There's Healing in Praise

Therapeuo (Greek) – "to worship, to adore, to cure, to heal of disease, restore to health".

What's God Looking For in Praise & Worship?

John 4:23 – "It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit ... That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship. God is a Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration." (MSG)

(A) True Worship Is Authentic

"It's **who you are** and **the way you live** that count before God."

- ✓ True worship is the overflow of a LIFE that honors God!

(B) True Worship Is Heartfelt

"Your worship must **engage your spirit.**" (Compare Matt. 15:8.)

(C) True Worship is Personal

"That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are **simply and honestly themselves before Him** in their worship."

- ✓ The Implication: Worship is going to look different for different people. (Engage your heart, then be yourself – Col. 3:16-17.)

(D) Worship Should Include Your Entire Being

"Those who worship him must do it out of their very being." (Mk. 12:30)

(E) True Worship is Loving

"... must do it out of their very being ... **in adoration.**"

- ✓ If "adoration" isn't happening, then "worship" isn't happening.