

## Rendezvous, the Power of Praise

Texts: Luke 11:1; Matthew 6:9-18

### 1. PRAISE IS GOD'S HOME ADDRESS.

Psalm 22:3: "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." We know that God is omnipresent, but the magnificent presence of God is manifested in the praises of His people. The word inhabitest means to sit down in quiet or, in other words, the place where one lives.

### 2. PRAISE BRINGS ACCESS INTO THE MANIFESTED PRESENCE OF GOD.

Matthew 6:9: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Psalm 100:2: "Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalm 100:4: "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

Praise ushers a clear and unhindered passage to God's presence. Hebrews 13:15: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." In Genesis 29:31-35, Leah names her son Judah, which means praise. Psalm 76:1: "In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel." Revelation 5:5: "And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

### 3. PRAISE IS THE ATMOSPHERE WHERE GOD'S CREATIVE POWER IS ON DISPLAY.

Job 38:4-7: "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

Jack Taylor said, "When we praise, productivity is maximized, fulfillment is realized and frustration is neutralized."

Psalm 67:3-7. The blessing of God follows those who praise Him.

### 4. PRAISE DISPELLES THE POWERS OF DARKNESS.

Matthew 21:15, 16. The word perfected is from the Greek word *katartizo*, which means to complete thoroughly, to repair or adjust; fit, frame, mend, to make perfect, prepare, restore. This is where our word "catharsis" (to make pure; to cleanse) comes from.

Psalm 8:1, 2; I Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Psalm 149:6-9: "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise

ye the LORD.” 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 every one’s bands were loosed.” II Chronicles 20:12; 20-23; Ezekiel 28:13 (the Devil was first praise leader in Heaven); Revelation 12:9-12; Isaiah 61:3: “To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”

#### Conclusion: WORDS OF PRAISE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

*Hallel*: “to laud, boast, rave, to celebrate.” It is used approximately 100 times in the Old Testament.

*Yadah*: “to worship with extended hands, to throw out the hands.” It is used over 90 times in the Old Testament. (*Yad* means hand).

*Barak*: “to bless, to bless, to declare God the origin of power for success, prosperity, and fertility.” It is used approximately 70 times in the Old Testament as praise to God.

*Tehillah*: “to sing or laud.” It is derived from *hallal* and is generally accepted to mean “the singing of the *hallals*.” It is used over 50 times in the Old Testament.

*Zamar*: “to pluck the strings of an instrument, to praise with a song.” It is used almost exclusively in the Psalms and occurs approximately 40 times in the Old Testament.

*Todah*: “to extend the hands in thanksgiving, a thank-offering.” It is used only a few times when translated “praise” but occurs many other times in connection with thanksgiving.

*Shabach (Shebach)*: “to command, address in a loud tone, to shout.” This is the exclamatory form of praise in a special sense and is found only about 7 times in the Old Testament. It is interesting, however, to note that the other words for shout are used in connection with the exercise of praise.

#### WORDS OF PRAISE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:

*Ainos*: “laudation, to highly commend.”

*Humneo*: “to celebrate God, to sing a hymn unto.”

*Eulogetos*: “to adore.”

*Doxa*: “declare as glorious, to give honor, praise and worship.”

In *Reflections on the Psalms* C.S. Lewis wrote, “I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise.... The world rings with praise— readers their favourite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favourite game.... I had not noticed either that just as men spontaneously praise whatever they value, so they spontaneously urge us to join them in praising it: 'Isn't she lovely? Wasn't it glorious? Don't you think that magnificent?' The Psalmists in telling everyone to praise God are doing what all men do when they speak of what they care about. My whole, more general, difficulty about the praise of God depended on my absurdly denying to us, as regards the supremely Valuable, what we delight to do, what indeed we can't help doing, about everything else we value. I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed.”

In 1648 the Westminster Divines confessed:  
“Question: What is the chief and highest end of man? Answer: Man’s chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.”

-Pastor Pope-