

TEACHING ON PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

WHAT IS MAN'S CHIEF PURPOSE AND REASON FOR EXISTENCE?

i) To Fulfil The Great Commission Given By Christ in Matthew 28 To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Evangelism = outflow of the relationship with God built through praise and worship, prayer and reading of the Word.

We should begin to have a glimpse of the Father heart of love towards those who are dying in their sin as our relationship with God develops.

ii) to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

We were **created to have fellowship with Him**. To glorify = to give honour, praise, worship, dignity, enhance His reputation. Enjoy Him = to love being in His presence.

Isaiah 43:7 & 21, Psalm 102:18, Ephesians 1:6,12 & 14

John McArthur - “ Clearly the supreme duty of the creature for time and eternity is to worship the Creator.”

Fellowship with God through praise and worship would have commenced with Adam and has continued down through the ages and will continue throughout eternity.

Examples :

Abel (Genesis 4:3-4) , **Enoch** (Genesis 5:24), **Noah** (Genesis 6:9, 8:20)

Abraham (Genesis 12:8, 13:4, 22:5, James 2:23), **Moses** (Deuteronomy 34:10)

David (the Psalms, Acts 13:22)

Jesus (Luke 11:1, Matthew 11:25, Mark 14:23, Luke 10:21)

WE ARE THE TABERNACLE OF GOD

What is a temple for? It is a place of worship. We are Temples of the Holy Ghost. 1 Cor 3:16
1 Cor 6:19-20. Individually and together we are the temple of God and a temple is to be a place of worship. We are God's habitation - not a temple made with hands.

We are New Testament priests unto God - 1 Peter 2:5 & 9. Just as the Old Testament priests had to bring a sacrifice unto God, we too must bring a sacrifice but not of blood, but of ourselves.

Rom 12:1 - "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (worship)." Heb 13:15 - Bringing the sacrifice of praise to God continually; that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.

THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE, THANKSGIVING AND JOY

Ps. 107:22, Jonah 2:9, Jer 33:11, Psalm 27:6. This is something we must ***do in spite of how we feel***. We must learn to rule our feelings and emotions instead of letting them rule us. Eg. weather, stock market, home relationships or physical condition.

The sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving is the ***choice of every believer***. Eg. Jonah in the whale - *Jonah 2:9-10* and Paul & Silas in prison. *Acts 16:25-31*. Bring a Sacrifice of Praise in faith - ***An act of the Will***. Lev. 22:29 - "And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord, offer it of your own free will."

Our offering of praise - must be brought with the right heart attitude and motive otherwise our offering is no better than that brought by Cain. It may cost us something to bring our praise to the Lord when we are in the midst of trials, however, as we confess the Word (fruit of our lips), faith is released. There is power in the spoken word. Eg. David and the numbering of Israel - Ornan's field.

WHAT IS THANKSGIVING & WHAT IS PRAISE

Thanksgiving is spontaneous audible expressions of gratitude and thanks unto God for things He has done, is doing, and is going to do. It is a public acknowledgement of what God has done by telling others about His character or love, with special reference to His name. A thankful heart is one that operates because of God, not because of circumstances surrounding me, either good or bad.

Praise is to commend the merits of, to glorify, and to extol the attributes of God in a way that could be either vocal, visible, audible or a combination of these. Praise is faith in action. It is adoration to God, in other words, the natural response to intimacy with God. It is the acknowledgment of the glories of His excellent person and differs from thanksgiving which describes what God has done rather than what He is.

HEBREW WORDS FOR THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

There are 7 Hebrew words for praise which are worthy of noting. These are:

YADAH - Thankful expression of praise, from root word meaning 'to throw out the hand' - lifted hands.

Scriptures - 2 Chron 20:21; Ps 9:1; 28:7; 43:4; 111:1

TOWDAH - *Thanks and praise for what God is going to do. The sacrifice of praise - the lifted hand is also implied.*

Scriptures - Ps 50:23; 69:30; 107:22; Is 51:3

HALLAL - *To boast, to celebrate, to be clamorously foolish, to shine - flows out of love. A complete abandonment of self. It is used in conjunction with the name of God 'Jah' to form a common word for praise - Hallelujah.*

Scriptures - 2 Chron 31:2; 1 Chron 23:5; 23:30; 2 Chron 20:19; Ezra 3:11; Neh 5:13; Ps 22:23,26; 35:18; 63:5; 69:30,34; 74:21; 107:32; 150:3-5; Joel 2:26

BARAK - *To kneel, to bless, to salute. It flows out of a lifestyle of blessing - giving your all and holding back nothing. It speaks of reverence and quietness before God.*

Scriptures - Judges 5:2; Ps 72:12-15

TEHILLAH - *High praise - to sing or laud. It operates from a lifestyle of holiness. Tehillah praise is the praise that God inhabits.*

Scriptures - Ex 15:11; 2 Chron 20:22; Ps 22:3; 33:1; 34:1; 35:28; 40:3; 65:1; 71:14; 100:4; 106:2; 147:1; Is 42:8,10,12; 43:21; Jer 13:11; 17:14; 33:9; Zeph 3:19-20.

ZAMAR - *To pluck the strings of an instrument, to sing praise. Praising with musical instruments. It flows from a lifestyle of melody.*

Scriptures - 1 Chron 16:9; 2 Sam 22:50; Ps 47:7; 57:7; 68:4; 98:4; 144:9; 149:3; Is 12:5.

SHABACH - *To shout, to address in a loud tone, to glory, to triumph, to commend. It is the exclamatory form of praise.*

Scriptures - Ps 35:27; 63:3; 117:1; 145:4; Dan 2:23; 4:34,37.

WHY DO WE PRAISE THE LORD?

- 1) *Because we want to out of desire and passion for the one we love.*
- 2) *Because God dwells in the praises of His people. Ps. 22:3*
- 3) *Because God commands us to. Ps. 117:1, Ps. 150.6*
- 4) *Because praise glorifies God. Ps. 50:23 Is. 43:21*

- 5) *It silences the Devil* ie. he trembles at the sound of Jesus' name Luke 10:17, Ps. 8:2
When we love Jesus, we become a threat to Satan's kingdom.
- 6) *It builds up our relationship with God.* You cannot separate praise from relationship.
James 4:8
As we declare His worth, God comes and meets with us.
- 7) *As an expression of thanks for His goodness and mighty acts.* Ps. 150:2
- 8) *Because Jesus wants to praise the Father through us.* Heb .2:12, Ps 22:22
- 9) *Because we have the calling and responsibility to function as a New Testament Priest.* 1 Pet. 2:5 & 9
- 10) *It causes us to triumph and builds our confidence in God to handle future battles*
i.e. it increases our faith level. eg. Jehosophat 2 Chron 20:12-22
- 11) *It is the key to power.* ie praise creates faith to believe for God's power to be released.
"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" - Colossians 3:16

WHEN ARE WE TO PRAISE THE LORD?

- 1) At all times (Ps. 34:1, Psalm 113:3).
- 2) In everything, even when discouraged (1 Thess. 5:18).
- 3) In our homes (Ps. 149:5, Acts 2:46-47).
- 4) The assembly (Ps. 22:22, 35:18, 111:1).
- 5) The presence of non-believers (Ps.126:2, Acts 2:46-47, Acts 16:25-31).

HOW ARE WE TO PRAISE THE LORD?

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| 1) With clapping | 4) With dancing |
| 2) With the shout | 5) With singing |
| 3) With instruments | 6) With a loud and joyful noise |

