

We want His power more than His purity.

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Prayer Study #320

MORE ON PRAISE

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I cannot speak enough about the role and importance of praise in the Spirit-baptized believer's life. Almost always the powerful experience of being baptized with the Holy Spirit is expressed through praise, whether in tongues or in the native language. As you may remember, the disciples did not preach or heal or do miracles in the Upper Room when the Holy Spirit came upon them on the Day of Pentecost. Instead they magnified or praise the Lord in languages they had never learned. Thus the initial evidence of the Baptism for these particular believers was praising the Lord in unlearned tongues of men so that those visiting Jerusalem could hear the praise of God in their own languages.

How Important is Praise?

1. The Lord inhabits the praises of his people (Psalm 22:3).
2. In His presence is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11).
3. The joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).
4. Those who know their God shall be strong and will do exploits (Daniel 11:32).

Praise=Presence of Jesus

Presence of Jesus=Joy

Joy=Spiritual Strength

Spiritual Strength=Knowledge of God

Knowledge of God=Spiritual Exploits

Therefore, Praise brings about Spiritual Exploits or Signs and Wonders

Praise breaks the heaviness around us, throws confusion in the enemy's camp, and sets the captives free. It is the antidote for almost every problem that a Christian faces.

PRAISE BREAKS THE HEAVINESS AROUND US

ISAIAH 61:1-3

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of

joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.”

PRAISE THROWS CONFUSION IN THE ENEMY’S CAMP

2ND CHRONICLES 20:20-23

- A. Jehoshaphat hears that a great multitude of Moabites, Ammonites, and Edomites are coming against the people of God.
- B. Jehoshaphat is afraid.
- C. Jehoshaphat seeks the Lord in prayer.
- D. Jehoshaphat proclaims a fast.
- E. Jehoshaphat confesses by faith, before the people, “If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence or famine, we stand before this house and in Thy presence (for Thy name is in this house), and cry unto Thee in our affliction, then Thou wilt hear and help.”
- F. Jehoshaphat puts his eyes upon the Lord. “For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us, neither know we what to do; but our eyes are upon thee.”
- G. Jehoshaphat receives an answer from the Lord through the prophet Jahaziel.
- H. Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground and all Judah fell before the Lord and worshiped Him.

And they rose early in the morning and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa, and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.” And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and to say, “Praise the LORD, for His mercy endureth forever.” And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set an ambush against the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who were come against Judah, and they were smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, everyone helped to destroy another.

PRAISE SETS THE CAPTIVES FREE

ACTS 16:16-34

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by

fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them in to prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns [singing praises] to God; and the prisoners were listening to them. 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 chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called out with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Some Important Verses on Praise

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together (Psalm 34:1-3).

He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen (Deuteronomy 10:21).

I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth-Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear and will trust in the LORD (Psalm 40:1-3).

“Whoever offers praise glorifies Me, and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God” (Psalm 50:23).

Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name (Psalm 63:3-4).

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name (Psalm 100:4).

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving [PRAISE] let your requests be made known to God; and let the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things (Philippians 4:4-8).

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name (Hebrews 13:15).

Most Common Scriptural Words for Praise

Yadah (Hebrew): to hold out a hand, to worship with extended hands

Halal (Hebrew): to make a show, to be clamorously foolish, shine

Barak (Hebrew): to kneel down and bless

Zamar (Hebrew): to touch a stringed instrument, to make music

Shabach (Hebrew): To address or adore in a loud tone

Towdah (Hebrew): an extension of the hand, a choir of worshipers

Humnos (Greek): to sing a hymn