"One thing I learned going through a storm and that is, you can Praise God in the dark! If God makes light to shine out of darkness, well bless God, I can call forth light into my situation. I am the light of God. Praising Him is not determined by day or night. In whatever state I find myself in, I will continue to acknowledge Him. Then and only then, He will direct my path."

Shelena Griffiths

Prayer Study #553 O

WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE: PRAISE

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, GA USA

Through the years we have emphasized, but not always practiced, praise, one of the most powerful weapons we have in our arsenal against the enemy. Almost every time we have a long course of study, I find the opportunity to repeat our previous studies on praise. The following lesson, however, is not by own, but was taken others. First, we look at "How to Praise the Lord," "Who Should Praise the Lord," and "Gaining Freedom in Praise" from notes in a service I was in at High Point Church in Macon, Georgia many years ago, possibly in the 1970s or 1980s. The speaker, as I recall, was Stephen Whyte, son of the Canadian minister and wonderful deliverance pastor, Maxwell Whyte. (In fact, Maxwell Whyte was one of the men who really opened the door of deliverance ministry to many in the English speaking Church.) I don't think that Stephen's presentation can be improved on, since he is very scriptural and very thorough.

Then I give you Blanche Reynolds' "Praise and Worship." Blanche was this ministry's dear friend and spoke often in this area. Following that, for you who love the Hebrew and Greek, are A.L. and Joyce Gill's "Biblical Words for Praise." Then we include one of the greatest praise songs of our generation, written by Russ Taft, and give one of the greatest testimonies of praise in the Word of God……

PRAISE

But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praise of Israel.

Psalm 22:3

HOW TO PRAISE THE LORD

1. **With the whole heart** (Psalm 9:1)-*I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all Thy marvelous works.*
2. **With praise that can be heard** (Acts 16:25)-*And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God, and the prisoners heard them.*
3. **With shouting** (Psalm 35:27)-*Let them shout for joy, and be glad that favor my righteous cause; yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.*
4. **With singing** (Psalm 98:1)-*O sing unto the LORD a new song; for He hath done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm hath gotten Him the victory.*
5. **With a joyful noise** (Psalm 66:1-2) *–Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands.*

6. **With crying out** (Isaiah 12:6)-*Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion; for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.*
7. **With laughter** (Psalm 126:2)-*Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.*
8. **With skill on musical instruments** (Psalm 33:2)-*Praise the LORD with harp; sing unto Him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.*
9. **With thanksgiving** (Psalm 69:30)-*I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.*
10. **With bowing and kneeling down before Him** (Ephesians 3:14)-*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ.*
11. **By falling prostrate before Him** (Revelation 4:10a)-*The four and twenty elders fall down before Him that sat on the throne and worship Him that liveth for ever and ever….*
12. **With clapping of hands** (Psalm 47:1)-*O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.*
13. **By raising of hands** (1 Timothy 2:8)-*I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*
14. **With dancing** (2nd Samuel 6:14)-*And David danced before the LORD with all his might, and David was girded with a linen ephod.*

15. **By speaking in tongues** (Jude 20)-*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.*

WHO SHOULD PRAISE THE LORD

Psalm 148

Praise ye the LORD, praise ye the LORD from the heavens, praise Him in the heights. Praise ye Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts. Praise ye Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars of light. Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded, and they were created. He hath also stablished them for ever and ever; he hath made a decree which shall not pass. Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons and all deeps; fire and hail, snow and vapor; stormy wind fulfilling His word; mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars; beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying fowl; kings of the earth and all people; princes and all judges of the earth; Both young men and maidens; old men and children; Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven. He also exalteth the horn of His people, the praise of all His saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto Him. Praise ye the Lord.

Psalm 150:6

Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord.

GAINING FREEDOM IN PRAISE

1. **Recognize that praise is a requirement** (Psalm 150:1)-*Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the Lord.*
2. **Recognize that the goodness**, **mercy and faithfulness of the Lord makes Him worthy of praise** (Revelation 4:11)-*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.*
3. **Surrender any bitterness against God for our person or circumstances** (Psalm 139:14-16)-*I will praise Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.*
4. **Determine to please God rather than men** (Proverbs 29:25)-*The fear of man bringeth a snare, but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*
5. **Be willing to sacrifice your pride, your traditions, and your personality in order to be obedient to God** (Colossians 2:8)-*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*
6. **Learn how to praise from scripture** (Colossians 3:16)-*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

PRAISE AND WORSHIP
By Blanche Reynolds

Praise extols God for what He has done.
Worship extols God for Who He is.

Praise lifts us to the Heavenly place.
Worship lifts God to His rightful place-The Throne.

Praise says, “Praise the Lord!”
Worship says, “He is Lord!”

Praise claims heirship to the throne rights.
Worship lays crowns at His feet.

Praise enjoys God.
Worship esteems Him.

Praise acclaims Him.
Worship beholds Him.

Praise lifts.
Worship bows.

Praise lauds.
Worship loves.

Praise celebrates.
Worship humbly reveres.

Praise addresses God.
Worship waits on God.

Praise dances.
Worship removes shoes for Holy Ground.

BIBLICAL WORDS FOR PRAISE
(the following was taken from *Praise and Worship: Becoming Worshipers of God* by A.L. and Joyce Gill)

1. **Halal:** HALAL is the most frequently used word translated as *praise.* It occurs 160 times in the Old Testament. It means *to make a show, to boast, to celebrate, to rave about, to glory in, and to shine.* True praise should have a clear and distinct sound. There should be no confusion as to what is intended. It is a note of celebration, a boasting in the Lord.

Psalm 22:23

I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You.

2. **Shabach:** SHABACH means *to shout with a loud voice in triumph and victory.*

Psalm 47:1

Oh, clap your hands, all you people! Shout to God with the voice of triumph.

3. **Zamar**: ZAMAR means *to touch or play the strings* and also has the sense of singing praise to the accompaniment of musical instruments.

Psalm 108:1-3

O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations.

4. **Yadah:** YADAH means *to give forth a confession of thanks* and also has the thought of giving thanks with the hands extended towards God. It implies submission to God.

2nd Chronicles 7:3

When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshipped and praised the Lord, saying, For He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

5. **Towdah:** TOWDAH means *the extension of the hands in adoration and thanksgiving and sacrifice by acknowledgement in reverence.*

Psalm 50:23

Whoever offers praise glorifies Me, and to him who orders his conduct aright, I will show the salvation of God.

6. **Barak:** BARAK means *to kneel in adoration.* To kneel before someone is to manifest humility and to demonstrate who you are kneeling before's superior worth and position.

Psalm 95:6b

Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

7. **Aineo:** AINEO means *a praise offering* or *celebration* or *a lifting of the voice in thanks.*

Luke 19:37

Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen.

8. **Epaineo:** EPAINEO means *to applaud.*

1st Peter 1:7

That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it be tested by fire, may be found in praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

9. **Eulogeo:** This word means *to applaud.*

Luke 1:64

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.

10. **Doxa:** DOXA means *glorious.* It denotes more of the atmosphere created by worship than the physical expressions.

John 9:24a

So they again called the man who was blind, and said to Him, "Give God the glory!"

11. **Proskuneo:** PROSKUNEO means *to prostrate oneself in homage*.

Matthew 2:2

Saying, Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

PRAISE THE LORD
Russ Taff

When you're up against a struggle that shatters all your dreams
And your hopes have been cruelly crushed by Satan's manifested schemes
And you feel the urge within you to submit to earthly fear
Don't let the faith you're standing in seem to disappear.

Praise the Lord! He will work through those who praise Him.
Praise the Lord, for our God inhabits praise.
Praise the Lord, for the chains that seem to bind you
Serve only to remind you, that they drop powerless behind you
When you praise Him.

Now, Satan is a liar, and he wants to make us think

That we are paupers, when he knows himself we're children of the King
So lift up the mighty shield of faith for the battle must be won
We know that Jesus Christ has risen and the work's already done.

Praise the Lord! He will work through those who praise Him.
Praise the Lord, for our God inhabits praise.
Praise the Lord for the chains that seem to bind you
Serve only to remind you that they drop powerless behind you
When you praise Him.

Praise the Lord! He will work through those who praise Him.
Praise the Lord, for our God abides in our praise.
Praise the Lord, for the chains that seem to bind you
Serve only to remind you, that they drop powerless behind you
When you praise Him.

SEND JUDAH FIRST!

Many of the kings of Israel were very corrupt and allowed pagan practices. Some, however, were just reformers who loved the Lord. Such a one was King Asa and later his son King Jehoshaphat, in the southern kingdom after Israel was divided. Jehosphaphat was an honest man who felt that idolatry and true worship could not coexist. He did not seek

riches and honor and was faithful to the Lord. When several armies, including the Moabites and the Ammonites, came to battle Jehoshaphat, he was afraid but sought the Lord and proclaimed a fast. He reminded the Lord in 2nd Chronicles 20:7-9: *Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and gave it to the descendants of Abraham, Your friend, forever. And they dwell in it and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, "If disaster comes upon us-sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine-we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save."*

The Lord God answered through prophet, Jahaziel. He told the people, *"Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude for the battle is not yours, but God's* (2nd Chronicles 20:15b).

Jehoshaphat sent the praise singers out the next morning, praising the beauty of holiness, ahead of the fighters, and the enemy was so confused that they killed each other. . No one of the enemy escaped, and the Israelites did not have to fight at all. It took three days for the Israelites just to gather the spoils and precious jewelry from the dead enemy soldiers. 2nd Chronicles 20:27-30 concludes with these words: *Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies. So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and*

trumpets to the house of the LORD. And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.