

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART VII: DAILY PRAISE

SCRIPTURE READING: Heb. 2:12; Heb.13:15; James 5:13; Eph.1:6,12 &14; Eph 5:18; Col. 3:16; Psa. 50:15 & 23; Psa. 34:1-3; Psa 35:27-28; Psa.149: 1-9

MEMORY VERSE: Heb. 13:15

PURPOSE: To understand what PRAISE really is. To see the importance of praise in our DAILY lives and to put it into practice in our lives and in our church.

LESSON: Praise is the VOCAL expression of our faith or trust in the living God. So we should PRAISE HIM when we do not feel like it and when we do feel like it. Next to prayer PRAISE is the most important exercise in the Christians life. Our memory verse speaks of the sacrifice of praise. Praise is not just a sacrifice when we feel like it but is a real sacrifice when we do not feel like it.

I. WHAT IS PRAISE?

A. There are several Greek and Hebrew words, which are translated by our one English word "praise". We list these for you in the following notes along with some comments.

1. "A TALE"; "A STORY"; "A NARRATION": Today this would be our testimony of what GOD has done for us or someone else. To tell others of HIS love, HIS salvation, HIS healing and delivering power and how HE has supplied some material need etc. is to praise HIM.

2. "COMMENDATION": Is praise to God for (a) His acceptance of us (Eph. 1:6). (b) For His GLORY (the exhibition of His character and His operations (Eph. 1:12). (c) For His Glory in HIS possession, i.e. the church who is HIS inheritance.

3. "ANYTHING PRAISE WORTHY": His work within us. His work within others. His love demonstrated. Praise Him for Who He is. Praise Him for the gift of His Son. For the Gift of His Holy Spirit and thousands of other things.

4. "DOXOLOGY"; "GLORY": To give glory to; to worship; to express great honor to; to exalt; to magnify; to praise by the expression of speech with words or with song.

5 "SINGING HYMNS": "I will sing THY PRAISE". "I will sing PRAISES UNTO THEE." Means to vocalize i.e. sing out loud and to have a continual song in your heart. "Singing and making melody in your heart unto the Lord".

6. "TO TWITCH OR TWANG" as on a bowstring: Thus to pluck a stringed instrument with the fingers. Can and should be expanded to include all musical instruments as used to glorify and to praise HIM. Many Christian musicians can express their praise, worship and the glory of God on an instrument better than they can with their voice.

7. "EULOGIZE": Is to bless; To speak well of GOD. i.e. "God is GOOD"

II. GENERAL COMMENTS CONCERNING PRAISE:

A. As can be noted from all of the above definitions, praise is primarily an expression of our lips or our mouths. We can of course praise God within our hearts and we should but effective praise must be vocalized. Our memory verse states that the sacrifice of praise is the FRUIT OF OUR LIPS.

B. The EFFECTS of our praise can be seen in several passages of scripture. In fact a good study to undertake would be to locate all the scriptures, which deal with PRAISE and see the results. Here are two (2) Acts 16:19 & 2 Chronicles 20. As you can see from these two passages of scripture when the children of God praise HIM regardless of circumstances HIS mighty hand is released with power to change even the most impossible situations and circumstances.

C. The Bible says that we are to "rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice." (Phil. 4:4). This means that in all things we are to give thanks. No matter what the circumstances we can and should rejoice in Jesus. We may not enjoy the situation or circumstance, which we are in, in fact it may be completely deplorable, but we can still rejoice in the LORD.

D. One of the most precious and enjoyable times for the Christian is when two or more gather together to praise and worship God. We do this in almost every service at our church. As we sing praise songs every Christian should join in and sing praises as unto the Lord. As we praise Him our burdens are lifted and His presence FILLS the place. His Word tells us that God inhabits the praises of His children. (Psa. 22:3).

E. The psalmist says, "I will praise the name of the Lord with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving. This will please the Lord more than a burnt offering." (Psa. 69:30). One of the most natural and common actions of all God's children from the beginning of time is PRAISE. It is as natural as breathing.

III. QUESTIONS:

- A. Name three ways you can praise God. _____, _____, _____
- B. List five (5) things you are thankful to God for. Speak them OUT LOUD.
- C. According to our memory verse, the sacrifice of praise is? _____
- D. According to Heb. 2, & Psa. 35:18 where will or should we sing praises unto God?
- E. According to Psa. 50, when we offer unto God thanksgiving, pay our vows and call upon Him in the time of trouble; What will HE do? _____ Then what will WE do?
- F. How do we glorify Him? _____(Psa.50:23)
- G. What does it mean to glorify Him? _____
- H. In Acts 16 what happened to the Jail? _____ Why? _____
- I. In 2 Chronicles 20 what group did God have put out in front of His army to spear head the attack against the enemy? _____ What did this group do? _____ What did God do? _____.
- J. Describe a situation in your own life where you did not feel like praising God because of your circumstances but you did anyway and tell what God did. Speak it out to someone.
- K. According to our scripture readings and this lesson, when we are in any kind of trouble what should we do? _____.
- L. We have stated in this lesson that praise is the vocal expression of _____.
- M. Murmuring, complaining, worry, doubt, fear, and grumbling when put into practice or vocalized, provide the enemy with power to tear down and to destroy. Praise to God on the other hand releases God's _____ and frees us from our WORRY, DOUBT and FEARS. When we praise God in the midst of our trials, problems and circumstances, this is called the _____. (Heb.13:15)
- N. Wherever you are, RIGHT NOW, why don't you just lift your hands and praise HIM OUT LOUD? Practice doing this every day as an expression of your love and your faith.

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!