Biblical Ways to Praise the Lord

1 Peter 2:9

There is an unlimited source of power that is for the most part unknown to the Christian world, and completely unknown to the unregenerate world. I am talking about the power of praise.

The joy and intimate fellowship available with God through a true praise experience is so powerful that I want to share a few thoughts with you as we continue in this series concerning praise and worship.

The more I know about the goodness and the greatness of God, the more I am determined to praise Him with all of my life. As a church we are striving to walk in maturity in our praise. As Christians we are coming to the house of God to worship Him. The Word of God teaches us that God will withhold nothing from a people who will praise Him with their whole heart!

For the next few weeks we are going to take a long look into God’s Word as we seek to understand this matter of praise! One of the complaints I often hear when I speak about praising the Lord, is that it is too excessive!

Athletes run up and down a field kicking a dead pigskin, while thousands of fans leap up, cheer, and throw their cola or beer all over each other because their team made a touchdown. No one thinks that is excessive!

Crowds shout and yell at a boxing match, as they watch one man beat another man almost to death. No one thinks that is excessive!

Teenagers scream and nearly faint when their rock star idols begin to sing and gyrate to the beat of their top-of-the-chart song. No one thinks that is excessive!

Yet the church is looked down upon for glorifying the God of our salvation with our whole heart, mind, souls, and strength and for glorifying the God who turned us from a life spent going toward hell and placed them on the road to a place called heaven.
What would make someone want to dance across the front of a Worship Center? What would make someone want to lift their hands and shout praises to God, with tears streaming down their faces?

Who would act that way?

I can tell you whom. It is the **hopeless alcoholic** who was on his way to hell before God delivered him. It is the **helpless drug addict** with nothing to live for until God gave him or her new life and new hope. It is any **man or woman** who has known the saving healing, delivering touch of God who is bigger than they are. They want to express their joy and thankfulness to the God who has set them free!

What makes them act like that? They believe in the **supernatural**. What makes them act like that? They believe in **miracles**. What makes them act like that? They believe in **healing**. What makes them act like that? They believe **Jesus is coming again**!

The criticisms ring out: “I just don’t know what would cause someone to act like that. We don’t do it that way in our church. I just don’t believe that is proper.”

You listen to me today – their church did not save them, and their church did not heal them. Their church did not give them joy when they did not have any. Ladies and gentlemen, the church does not save folks, God saves folks, and **He is worthy of our praise**!

Listen to what we have been told in Psalm 107:21-22, “Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.”

As Peter stood in the midst of that great Pentecostal experience, he proclaimed, “For these are not drunk, as you might be thinking, Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that.” (Acts 2:15). **You see, they had found something stronger than anything they could shoot in their arms or find in a bottle.** “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel” (Acts 2:16).

**But, what did the prophet Joel speak?** “In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your
young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.” (Acts 2:17).

There is enough for everyone!

**It has nothing to do with economic status.** It has nothing to do with social status. It has to do with only one thing: **they have been to the spout where the glory comes out!** They have been touched by God!

**Child of God, God will anoint us to praise Him!** Praise is a commandment from the Word of God, as seen in Psalm 150:6, “Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord! Praise the Lord!”

**The commandments of God are not optional, and they are not flexible.** It is time for the church to get radically fanatical about the God we say we serve.

**Our praise and worship are not to please us, neither are they to please those around us.** They are for God. They are to please Him. Hebrews 11:6 reminds us that it pleases God when we act in faith and act on His Word.

**We do not become involved in praise and worship because we are trying to “get something.”** We are involved in praise and worship because we already have something! Praise and worship comes from a heart of love overflowing with thanksgiving for all that God is and for all that He has done.

**How much has God done for us?** Has He done enough that we want to praise Him for it? Has He done enough to cause us to lay aside our own preconceived ideas and worship God the way the Bible tells us to worship Him?

**The Word of God has a lot to say about praise.** But so much of what people say is praise really is not praise. And a lot of what people call worship really is not worship. **Much of it is just head knowledge paying lip service.** It is a learned response. True praise is not praise unless it comes from the heart and pours from a person’s lips as an expression of joy and thanksgiving to God.

**Though it can be, just singing a song is not praise.** Much of the singing that is done in our churches is not praise. It is beautiful and it excites the natural man, but that does not make it praise. **Praise is a spontaneous expression that**
comes from your heart, not your head, and gives glory to God for what He has done for you. That is true praise! And that is true worship!

The Scriptures overflow with instructions on how to praise God. There are many examples of what happened when God’s people praised Him. But praise is a personal decision. We must decide within ourselves if God is worthy of our praise!

One of the first ways to praise the Lord is by clapping your hands. Psalm 47:1 says, “Come, everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!” Religion wants us to be quiet.

Religious tradition seeks to make us ignorant of our authority – and the source of that authority. Jesus had a right to authority here because He came through the door of the flesh. Jesus was born of a woman into this earth realm; Satan was not. Therefore, Satan has no legitimate authority on this earth. What authority Satan had he stole from Adam in the Garden of Eden, and praise God, Jesus took that back for us on the Cross! Therefore, Satan has no legitimate authority in the earth!

In Matthew 28:18-19 Jesus said, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth...” The Greek word translated “authoirity” is the word “exousia” (ex-oo-see-ah), and it means “authority, jurisdiction, power, right, strength.”

In Luke 9:1 Jesus says, “Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.” In this passage of Scripture, Jesus uses two different Greek words together. He uses the Greek word “dunamis” (doo-nam-is), which means “miraculous power” and the Greek word “exousia” (ex-oo-see-ah), which means “jurisdiction.”

Child of God. Jesus transferred His authority to us. That is why we clap our hands – it is the sound of flesh on flesh, demonstrating our authority in the earth!

Another way we have of praising the Lord is with the shout of praise. Psalm 47:1 says, “…shout unto God with the voice of triumph.” Psalm 34:1 says, “I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Throughout the Bible there is an emphasis on shouting as a vital part of our praise.
The book of Ezra records the restoration of worship when the Israelites returned from exile. Through a proclamation by Cyrus, king of Persia, authorization was given to rebuild the temple, which had been destroyed. Ezra 3:10-11 gives us this account, “And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because he is good, for his mercy endureth forever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.”

The people knew that when the temple was rebuilt and worship was restored God would again dwell among them. They looked forward to the time when God’s glory would once more be manifested in their midst.

These are the days of the restoration of Scriptural praise and worship to the body of Christ.

After 400 years of silence, Matthew 3:3 tells us the voice of John the Baptist came as one crying in the wilderness, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord.” John had a message from God. He proclaimed it boldly and unashamedly.

We, too, have a message from God. As John the Baptist was commissioned to announce the first coming of Jesus Christ to the earth, so we are commissioned to proclaim His Second Coming.

When Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Bible says “a very great multitude” came out to meet Him. They spread their cloaks before Him and waved palm branches, crying “Hosanna to the son of David” (Matthew 21:9). They were shouting because they thought He was coming to set up His earthly kingdom.

Every day, we are drawing closer to His return.

If the Israelites shouted about the rebuilding of the temple, how much more should we be shouting now? God is rebuilding His temple in us! Not only has Jesus made an entrance into our lives, but also He will soon make an entrance into this world.
If the multitudes welcomed Jesus’ coming into Jerusalem with a shout, how much more should we lift our voices as we see the day of His return approaching? The Bible also talks about giving praise with instruments, through dancing, through singing and the lifting up of our hands, and through our giving.

Let me close with this reminder from Psalm 150:6, “Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”

I thank God this verse doesn’t say, “Let only those who know how to play musical instruments praise the Lord.” Or, “Let only those who can really sing praise the Lord.” But the Psalmist said, “Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.”

Psalm 150:6 reveals the true fundamental purpose for which man was created: to praise the Lord. If you will study the Word of God further, you will also find that man was created to commune and fellowship with God. And one-way we fellowship with God is through praise – true praise!

Now let me ask you a question: It is possible to be too extravagant with our praise? No! It is not! Hebrews 13:15 says, “…let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”

The Greek word translated “continually” means “all the time.” So we should never cease to praise the Lord!

Child of God, when you are able to tap into the reservoir of God’s power through praise, it will change your entire perspective on life.

You can enjoy a fuller, more joyous, and victorious Christian life through praising God. If you want to experience the supernatural power of God in your life, you must determine that His praises will continually be in your mouth—even in the hard times.

Child of God, we need to simply make a conscious decision that says, “I will praise God at all times! I will draw from the resource of God’s power through the power of praise.” Praising God will usher in His power that reaches far beyond the stretch of your imagination!

If you are not saved, why not today?
Every one please stand for prayer.

Father,
By Your grace we have received life and life more abundantly. I have known Your love in every avenue of my life, therefore, I ask You to give me the courage to praise You in the market place, in my home, and in my church. Help me not to be ashamed to share Your Word and to express my love. In Jesus’ name. Amen.