

P45 PRAISE & WORSHIP Part 2

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we saw how important praise & worship is in the Christian life.

The Bible teaches us it is NOT an optional extra, but is an area of our lives that God is seeking from us.

Psalm 22:3

KJV "You inhabit the praises of Israel"

AMPLIFIED "You who dwell in the praises of Israel"

TNIV "Yet you are holy, enthroned as the holy one, you are the praise of Israel" or "yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel"

See here more than a suggestion that PRAISE releases something of God's Kingdom rule in our midst.

Illus: 2 Chronicles 20:15-22

Once God's people began to praise, victory was the result.

Something happened in the spirit realm once God's people began to wholeheartedly praise their God!

God was enthroned on their praises & the enemy could not stand!

Throughout Scripture we find God's felt presence and His released power are many times closely linked to Praise & worship.

Last week we looked at why Praise is so important. Today, let's focus on what it actually is.

1. WHAT IS PRAISE?

Often in the Bible, when our English uses ONE word, the original language uses several words ... each giving a different shade of meaning.

"Praise" is no exception.

The word translated "Praise" in our English Bible covers 8 Hebrew words and at least 3 Greek words, all with different shades of meaning. Some of the more common ones are:

- 53x "praise" means: "From an open hand ... to extend the hands"
- 117x: "To be clear of sound, to shine, to make a show, to boast, to rave, to celebrate"
- 56x : "a song or hymn of praise". This meaning is based on the one above suggesting the TYPE of song or hymn intended.
- 10x: to address in a loud tone
- In N.T. the meanings are similar with the addition of: "A story or testimony"

We can see from this that Praise refers to **"an outward vocal and physical expression of celebration by man towards his God involving raised hands, song, loud voices and testimony."**

2. WHAT DOES PRAISE INVOLVE?

a) Praise involves a declaration of:

- **Who God is: Psalm 136:1**
- **What God has done: Psalm 105:1-2**

- **What God can do: Psalm 18:1-2**
- **His Name: Psalm 9:2**
- **His Word: Psalm 33:1-9**

b) Praise involves an act of the will

Psalm 108:1-3

c) Praise involves a celebration ... an outward show of pleasure

Psalm 98:1-8

Even though praise involves the emotions ... praise is based on the WORD of God, not just on circumstances or feelings.

It is something we CHOOSE to do rather than something we FEEL LIKE DOING or FEEL LED TO DO!

I can, therefore, praise God no matter what is going on around me!

It is based on my knowledge of God and who he is, not my feelings or circumstances.

Therefore, Paul could write in **Philippians 4:4**

“Rejoice in the lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

CONCLUSION:

- Praise is one of the doorways to releasing the power & felt presence of God in our midst
- Praise is an outward celebration of song, shouting, testimony and raising of hands in honour of God

- Praise involves a declaration of who God is, What he has done, what he can do, his name and his word
- Praise is an act of the will ... we choose to do it whether we feel like it or not

We need to become a praising people if we are to know the power of God at work in our services.

Need to come committed to praising God with all our heart.

Prepared to put energy into our praise.

Prepared to praise God No matter how we feel or what is going on in our lives.

Remember: Praise is NOT ABOUT US ... how we look, sound or feel. IT IS ABOUT HIM AND WHAT HE DESERVES!

HE DESERVES OUR VERY VERY BEST!!!!

As we give Him our best, we open our lives to receive his best!