

P45 PRAISE & WORSHIP Part 3

INTRODUCTION:

In the first two messages in this series, we saw what praise is and how important it is in the Christian life.

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

Not only is God seeking praise & worship from us, but also being a praising person releases something of God's Kingdom rule in us.

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

Praise is an outward celebration of who God is and what he does. It is based on the truth of God's word, rather than our own emotional state.

It is something we CHOOSE to do because it is the right thing to do, rather than something we do because we feel like it.

Today, let's focus on who should be involved in praise & worship. Is praise just something that the worship team do? Is it the realm of the musician or singer or those who are comfortable with hearing their own voice?

1. WHO SHOULD PRAISE GOD?

Psalm 148:1-14

- **Vs. 1-2** Those in the heavenly realm ... See this in the book of Revelation **Rev. 4:8, 10; 5:11-13**. Praise is not a "Pentecostal thing" ... it is a heaven thing. Praise is the language of heaven. The praise in heaven is deafening!

- **Vs. 3-10** All creation on earth praises God ... The Bible talks about the trees clapping their hands before God. The seas roaring before him.
Creation continually declares God's greatness and his might. As we look at what he has made, we see his beauty & his majesty.
- **Vs. 11-14** People are created to praise God.

To summarise Psalm 148:

All in the heavenly realms are to praise God
All physical creation is to praise God
All people are created to praise God
Or in the words of Psalm 150 ...

Psalm 150:6

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord."

Praise is the domain of EVERYTHING THAT BREATHS.

Are we breathing today?

THEN we are to be a praising person.

2. WHO DOESN'T PRAISE GOD?

There is only one group who does not praise God.

Psalm 115:17

"It is not the dead who praise the Lord ..."

Isaiah 38:18

"For the grave cannot praise you, death cannot sing your praise, those who go down to the pit cannot hope for your faithfulness."

Only the spiritually dead do not praise God.
The devil and his angels no longer praise God.
Hell does not praise God.

3. WHAT, THEN, IS OUR RESPONSE AS GOD'S PEOPLE?

Psalm 84:4

“Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are EVER praising you.”

Praise is to be a CONTINUAL response from us.

“ever” ... all the time ... in every place & in all circumstances.

Psalm 33:1-3

“Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous, it is fitting for the upright to praise you.

Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten stringed lyre.

Sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy.”

Remember: “fitting” ... to feel at home.

Praise is our “home language” ... it is our “default setting” as Christians.

Praise creates an atmosphere of home ... of heaven ... whenever we do it.

Our response, therefore, no matter what life throws at us is to respond with praise to God.

To lift up our hands and our voices and declare how good he is.

To speak what his word says about him and praise him for it.

Singing, clapping, shouting, playing music, declaring God's goodness should be a regular expression in our lives.

When we do, we are speaking the language of heaven ... and bringing the atmosphere of heaven into our circumstances!

That is exactly why Paul wrote:

Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice.”

CONCLUSION:

Praise and worship have, for many Christians today, been the domain of the worship team.

If we are not careful, we can create a culture where we come along to a church meeting and watch the worship team perform.

We can become spectators rather than participators.

AND YET THAT IS NOT WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES.

Praise & worship is the continual response of all God's people.

Each one of us have the important role of declaring God's goodness.

Of lifting up our voices in praise & adoration of our God.

It is not “how good it sounds or looks” that matters.

It is what is coming from the heart that God responds to!

I believe, more than ever before, God's people need to rise up in praise & worship again.

We need to become people who honour God with our mouths.

Who respond to him because of who he is, rather than how we feel.

To rejoice in the lord ALWAYS!

As we do ... things happen.

What things?

That's for next time!