

**DELIGHTING GOD'S HEART
THE PRACTICALITY OF PRAISE
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SLIDE #2: Josh and Emily

Josh says you are the best thing that ever happened to Him.
Josh says marrying you was the wisest thing he ever did.
Josh says your eyes sparkle like diamonds.

Both newly weds tingling with delight.

God loves to have His heart tingled.
We tingle it through praise.

SLIDE #3: ISAIAH 43:20-21: The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

SWITCH TO ROGER'S COMPUTER.

SLIDE #4: Psalm 104:1: Praise the LORD, O my soul.

I know of no greater thought to enter the mind of man than this: I can bless the Lord.

DRAW: Worship Experience: Tend to think that you in the congregation are the audience and that the Preacher and the Song Leader are the Actors and God up in Heaven is the Prompter or Director.

We need to change that perception entirely. God is the Audience. You are the actors. We up here are the Directors or Prompters in public worship.

People say, "Well, I came to church and I didn't get much out of it today." To a large degree, we are not here to get something out of it. We are here so that God gets something out of it. Not getting much out of my quiet times - there to give!!!!

SWITCH BACK TO TECH'S COMPUTER.

Let Me Give To You THREE SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT PRAISE IS.

SLIDE #5: 1. Praise is recalling God's mighty acts of power (what He has done through history and in our lives).

2. Praise is reciting the marvelous aspects of God's character (how His personality and character traits enhance our lives).

3. Praise is thanking Him both for His actions and for His character.

1. Recounting God's Mighty Acts of Power.

One of the best reasons for studying the Old Testament is so that we can recite in praise what we have learned about Him.

Let me show you a wonderful way to praise God when you get up in the morning.

Maybe you have a problem or some anxiety and so you start like this:

"Lord, I want to praise you for a few moments. You are the God who always was and who always will be and you're the God who one day you stepped out on the edge of nothingness and scattered the stars and you are the God who created the world and you're the God who made man you are the God who began his redemption in the garden and you brought Israel out of Egypt and parted the Red Sea and guarded Israel by the pillar of fire and brought water out of the rock and provided manna from heaven and you're the God who protected the people with angels and you're the God who did this and that and you keep marching through history.

...You're the God who raised the dead and sent the Messiah and raised the Messiah from the dead and gave power to the Apostles.

And God, I have this problem at work the people don't like me...with my children...with my car...

2. Reciting God's Excellent Greatness (That Is, What God Is). "His Surpassing Greatness."

We are talking here about God's love, mercy, justice, righteousness, kindness, peace, gentleness.

A constant recitation of the characteristics of God in the midst of trouble brings great peace.

That is what Habakkuk did.

Habakkuk prays, "How long will I cry God and you won't bring a revival in Israel? Do something, God. Do something! Bring Revival!"

God says, "I am doing something. I am bringing the Babylonians to wipe you guys out."

Habakkuk says, "Wait a minute. I didn't ask for that! How can you send those nasty Babylonians? They are worse than the Israelites. We are at least more righteous than they are!"

Then, he stops and begins to recite God's attributes. "Wait a minute, God. You're a mighty God. You are a God that we can trust. You are eternal. You were here before it all began and you will be here long after it is all ended. After all, you are loving and you always have our ultimate best interests at heart. All right. I believe that you know what you are doing. Go ahead and handle it your way. I don't care if the storms come and the crops fail. I still will trust and believe in you."

3. Thanking God Both for His Works and Greatness.

Praise rises out of a thankful heart.

Luke 17:11-19: Jesus heals ten lepers; sends them into town to priests.

Only one in ten came back to give thanks - "thus glorifying God."

When we recite His attributes and recite His works and thank Him for everything, we discover that that is praise. As we praise God we find a resource that provides incredible strength for our own lives.

When Moses returned from Mount Sinai, he was bathed with God's shekinah glory, and spoke these revealing words about praising God in

SLIDE #6: Deuteronomy 10:14-22: "To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them....For the LORD your God is ... the great God, mighty and awesome. He is your praise; He is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes."

SLIDE #7: PRAISE WITH THANKSGIVING OPENS THE DOOR INTO THE THRONE ROOM OF THE LORD (PSALM 100:4).

PSALM 100: 4: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

There is a gate into the worship experience, whether private, personal, public, or corporate. Trying to come into worship without praise is like trying to crash through the courtyard fence. The gate is thanksgiving and praise, and it ushers us into the mid-court of God's glorious presence.

SEVERAL THINGS HAPPEN IN THE THRONE ROOM.

SLIDE #8: 1. IN THE LORD'S PRESENCE WE SEE THAT NOTHING IS OUT OF CONTROL!

Stephen sees Jesus standing up looking down on what is happening to him.

See Him on the throne? He is not wringing His hands over a world catapulting into oblivion. He does not walk around the throne with a furrowed brow and a worried look. He is the sovereign God. He is running the show.

SLIDE #9: 2. THE THRONE ROOM IS WHERE WE ARE INVITED TO KNOW GOD WELL.

If you want to know what God is really like, draw close to him in praise.
READ PSALM 22:3: Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you who inhabits our praise.

In other words, Praise is where God lives. It is His permanent address. Praise is His home element. He is at home in praise.

To put it in our terms, God is most able to relax and be at home in the midst of praise. Spend much time at the office or in people's homes or at the hospital, etc., but, if you want to see me most at home you may do so at my house.

An infant does not have to be taught to raise his arms toward his mother. He naturally reaches out to her. He lights up when she walks into the room. He is the sparkle in his mother's eye and he sees himself through the reflection of her devotion.

SLIDE #10: 3. THINGS LOOK QUITE DIFFERENTLY FROM THE LORD'S HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE THAN FROM OUR EARTHLY PERSPECTIVE.

What do we see in the throne room?
Read Revelation 4:1-6

Praise causes us to see God, high and holy and lifted up!
READ ISAIAH 6:1-5.

When, in the midst of praise, we see God for Who and What He is, we begin to see ourselves for what we really are.

We need some one bigger and greater than ourselves to be able to take care of our problems

The praise and worship of God demands a shift of center from self to God.

Cary Records: I am not that big a deal!

PIG

Stop running into pigs.

From Heavenly Perspective: See

JESSIE

Air Force Museum Julie crying at dinner.
She set the course for the first 35 years of your ministry.
Praise in the shower

BRONWYN

Bipolar, daily struggle
Why?
Angry?
Video games

SLIDE #11: Ecclesiastes 5:1-2: Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.

Lost job
Workers are the office
Marriage issues: my issues
Finances
Boy friend broke up with you.

Looking at life from an earthly perspective is like viewing a piece of embroidery from the underside- all we see are knots and stitches.

When we choose to receive Christ's garment of praise, God ushers us into His presence and we see life from heaven's balcony. We see the top side of the embroidery-the beauty and detail of God's craftsmanship.

SLIDE #12: PRAISE OFTEN PRECEDES MIRACULOUS DELIVERANCE.

READ PSALM 50:23: He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God."

Paul and Silas are in prison and stocks in Philippi. At midnight they sing and pray and the earthquake comes.

SLIDE #13: PRAISE PULLS THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER SATAN

Praise is the Believer's chief weapon against Satan.

READ PSALM 8:2: From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
(Jesus quotes this in Matthew 21:16).

SWITCH TO ROGER'S COMPUTER.

SLIDE OVERHEAD #14: JAMES 4:7: Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Why is this true? In his original state was the praise leader in Heaven. Pride got him and he and his hosts lost the rebellion and have been in Hellish misery ever since.

Praise, the continuing exercises of Heaven, is clearly etched into the memories of every fallen angel. The memory of the aborted rebellion in which they lost their lofty positions is hauntingly clear in their minds.

As very few creatures do, they know the power, joys, and delights of Praise. When they hear Biblical praises they are irritated and devastated.

Praise to them sounds like metal scratching glass. Their influence is neutralized and their lies are exposed by praise.

SLIDE #15: PRAISE ALLOWS US TO EXCHANGE OUR CLOTHES OF DESPAIR FOR GARMENTS OF JOY.

READ ISAIAH 61:1-3: The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me ... to provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

Notice that Praise is a garment. We may consciously choose to put it on like a shirt, or skirt, or coat. We put it on and it will ward off the spirits of depression, discouragement, and despair. The choice is left totally up to us.

SLIDE #16: DRAW Brain lock to safe place—praise!

Three parts of the brain are involved in obsessions.

The orbital frontal cortex detects mistakes. (located just behind the eyes). Once it fires it sends signals to the cingulate gyrus (located in the deepest part of the cortex). The cingulate gyrus triggers the dreadful anxiety that something bad is about to happen unless we correct the mistake and sends signals both to the heart and gut, causing the physical sensations we associate with dread.

The “automatic gearshift,” the caudate nucleus, sits deep in the center of the brain and allows our thoughts to flow from to the next—unless, as happens in OCD—the caudate gets stuck. It doesn’t shift gears—perhaps because the other two areas are overactive. This is brain lock.

Genetic

Infections in the caudate

Learning during development.

Stop it—Don’t go there. Repattern in the brains plasticity.

Safe place to go—tree—praise!

Take off old clothes and put on new clothes

SLIDE #17: DRAW Two kingdoms: Light and Darkness
Kingdom is an area over which a king rules

Kingdom of Light: God’s will is done. His influence is felt. “The Lord’s will be done. Basic rule of Kingdom of Light is “Let’s do it God’s way!” Perfect harmony, peace, no arguments. “Let’s do it God’s way. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

Kingdom of Darkness: Self and/or Satan rules. Basic rule of the kingdom of darkness is let's do it my way. "My will be done. I want to live independent from God."
Satan says, "I will exalt my kingdom above the stars! I will... I will..."

Language of Kingdom of Darkness is G-R-I-P-E.
"I've been swindled, I've been swindled, I been gypped, I been gypped, cheated out of everything, cheated out of everything, yes I am."
Gripe about everything: weather, job, family, God, ...

Language of kingdom of Light is P-R-A-I-S-E.
In everything give thanks for this is the will of God for you.
I will bless the lord at all times, his praise will continually be in my mouth.

Always tell who is living in the kingdom of God. Always praising God.
Can't get much lower than Job: "The lord gives the lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord.

Most of us live on the border.
Border town, don't speak any language well.
Many Christians like that! Trouble is, living too close to the border!

Start speaking a language called Gripe-Praise.
"I feel lousy—but praise the Lord anyway."

Only trouble with straddling the fence is that it always hurts in the middle.

God wants us to get away from the Border and start living on the Glory side.

SWITCH BACK TO TECH'S COMPUTER.

SLIDE #18: PreachitTeachit.org

- Sermon notes, outlines, audio and video of Roger, Glenn, Jack and others are available on PreachitTeachit.org
- *Download today's companion devotional for this sermon called "Delighting God's Heart"*
- *This week's Pastor to Pastor Podcast is entitled "Marriage and the Money Crunch"*
- *Send your burning Biblical, ministry or personal questions to "Ask Roger."*
- *Read, comment and express your ideas on this week's blog "What is our church's DNA?"*
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