

Spiritual How-to's -

How to Please the Lord

How to Praise & why we praise

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Intro- In these lessons we share brief, Bible basics on how you can please the Lord.

Today's topic – How and Why We Praise the Lord

PRAISE DEFINED:

As a Verb/an action = to express approval, commendation, admiration & recognition

As a noun/a thing= things that you say to offer your approval

Praise is about the merit of the object not the one offering it.

I. **Praise is familiar to us.** It is used in many aspects of life.

A. **Teaching** – Personal, Effort-based, Behavior-specific praise

B. **Employee recognitions** –

C. **Parenting** –

D. **Sports** –

E. **Church & lives of Jesus lovers** –

F. **Praise is mentioned** over 100x in the Psalms alone, & God is the object. It is His merit that is being praised, not ours.

II. **Let's look at one – Psalm 149.** In this psalm it says that the Lord takes pleasure in His people. And that is what these videos are about – pleasing the Lord.

A. **What 's going on in Psalm 149** that causes God to be pleased?

1. This psalm along with Psalms 146-150 are referred to as “Hymns of praise”. Because, in each of these chapters, the first and last phrase is “Praise the Lord”

* Or as the Hebrew calls it, “HALLELU – JAH”

2. Praise to Jah, Praise to the Lord.

B. **Let's read verse 1-2** and see what this praising looks like.

a. Praise the Lord = make a show, boast, celebrate **EXPRESS APPROVAL**

b. Sing to the Lord a new song = sing in someone's honor **EXPRESS ADMIRATION**

c. and His praise in the assembly = a song or hymn in the congregation of good and kind people. **JOIN OTHERS IN PRAISING HIM**

d. Let Israel be glad in his Maker = cheer up, be joyful in the One who made you and exercises authority over you. **THINGS WE SAY TO OUR CREATOR**

e. let the children of Zion rejoice in their King = let His kids be excited and jump and dance incircles because He is their King and reigns over everything

f. each of these summaries are based on the Hebrew words found in the text

C. So, in short response, the Lord takes pleasure when His kids praise Him.

1. That word “pleasure” in verse 4 means = to accept, delight, enjoy, to be pleased with, to please.

2. As any good father, he delights in seeing his kids celebrate him and sing to him

D. But there’s even more in Psalm 149:3 reveals more about praise.

1. Let them praise His name in the dance = God’s kids, twisting & whirling in joyous celebration. Dancing before Him.

2. Dance here also means = to writhe in pain

3. Twirling in joy or writing in pain can be praise to God. Both are opportunities for praise.

4. Make melody = use instruments, play them in praise to God.

5. with timbrel and lyre = praise Him with tambourine and stringed instruments

E. Let’s review– the Lord is pleased when we sing and celebrate Him, our maker, who reigns over all, in our joyous times and our painful times. Alongside other kind and good people, in the privacy of our home, and in our daily ventures.

With our voice, our body and our will.

1. He loves to hear our praise.

2. He lives inside the praises of His people. Ps. 22:3

III. There is reward for us, too.

A. Psalm 149:4 – he adorns the humble with salvation. That means He...

1. beautifies the meek and humble with victory and prosperity

a. He improves US when we humbly praise Him

b. He empowers US when we praise Him.

2. When we praise Him, He provides for us. It is a remarkable exchange!

B. How do we please the Lord?

1. Express our approval of Him

2. Express our admiration of Him

3. Join others in singing to Him

4. Find joy in His authority over us & celebrate it out loud and with our body

C. Choosing to praise is a learned habit.

1. It is choosing to see God over all and in all circumstances

2. choosing to celebrate Him even in bad situations

3. because He is still worthy, our Maker and King. His merit never changes!

D. That doesn’t mean everything that comes our way is pleasant or good. Sometimes we writhe in severe pain. Physical and emotional.

1. No matter the circumstance, **I choose to praise** Him because He is working all things for my good. Rom. 8:28

2. I choose to praise because He is a good Father who only gives good gifts to His kids. Luke 11:11

IV. Is God narcissistic, & egotistical because He delights in our praise like some kind of power hungry meglomaniac?

A. Consider at Christmas, when a parent puts “from Santa” gift tags on gifts they purchased for their kids.

1. When the kids get excited – is the parent jealous, selfish, wanting all the praise?
2. NO! The parent gives good gifts & is delighted to see their kid dance around with excitement in their choice of gifts. Even tho, Santa gave it.

B. The parent, (like me) may even say to themselves when their kid opens **Santa’s gift**, “Yeh, that was me too. Someday you will understand.”

1. As we grow and mature, we do understand that God is the giver of every gift and always worthy of praise.
2. And that parent was not egotistically seeking their kids praise at Christmas
3. But that parent sure does delight to see their kids celebrate each gift and enjoy it. It gives the parent pleasure and delight.
4. And when their kid turns their happiness or disappoint to gratitude and joy expressed to the parent – WOW! That is a pleasure indeed!
5. So as we grow and mature as His kids, we understand and praise Him.
6. We choose to wear “a garment of praise”. Isa. 61:3
7. And have His praise “continually be in our mouth”. Psa. 34:1
8. See others: Psa. 51:15; 119:171; Heb. 13:15; the book of Psalms

V. In Closing –

Why do we praise Him?

 **BECAUSE HE DESERVES IT. His merit alone, deserves our praise.**

How do we praise Him?

 **All throughout the day, by choosing to**
sing & speak our admiration, honor and joy in Him
celebrate that He is in control not us
publicly, and privately sing and dance to Him
in each situation, choose to praise the Lord

- ** These choices to praise the Lord bring pleasure to Him
- ** And bring reward to us.

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