

**Spiritual How-to's -
How to Please the Lord
Praise
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Intro- In these lessons we share brief, Bible basics on how you can please the Lord.

Today's topic – Praise. Praise pleases the Lord

I. Psalm 149:4 says this – “the Lord takes pleasure in His people.” That's exactly what we're looking for, right? For the Lord to take pleasure in us.

A. What are His people doing in Psalm 149 that causes Him to take pleasure in them?

1. In fact, this psalm along with Psalms 146-150 are referred to as “Hymns of praise”. 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
- b. Sing to the Lord a new song = sing in someone's honor, stroll minstrelly
- c. and His praise in the assembly = a song or hymn in the congregation of good and kind people
- d. Let Israel be glad in his Maker = cheer up, be joyful in the One who made you and exercises authority over you
- e. let the children of Zion rejoice in their King = let His kids be excited and jump in circles because He is their King and reigns over everything
- f. each of these summaries are based on the Hebrew words found in these two verses

C. So, in short response, the Lord takes pleasure in His kids, as they praise Him. It pleases the Lord when we 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. Verse 3 reveals more about praise.

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

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

E. 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.

II. There is reward in it too. Not only is the Lord pleased, but He blesses us when we praise.

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

1. beautifies the meek and humble with victory and prosperity
2. When we praise Him, He provides for us. It is a remarkable exchange!

B. How do we please the Lord?

1. praise the Lord
2. sing to the Lord
3. in gatherings and alone
4. rejoice like jumping children
5. dance, play instruments
6. celebrate He is our Maker and King

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

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

III. 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 kids 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 (at Christmas) 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.

IV. How do we praise Him? Remember Psalm 149...



All throughout the day, we choose to

1. Cheer ourselves up and be joyful that He is our Maker
2. Be excited that He is King over every situation
3. Sing, boast, celebrate, jump, twirl, dance and use instruments

** These choices to praise the Lord bring pleasure to Him

** And bring reward to us.