

Studies in Christianity
Prayer – A Private Discipline #3

S#1.

Praise, the First Key to Prayer

S#2.

Text : **Psalms 145: 1-7 ; 148: 1-14**

A. We looked at public prayer and saw that it must be :

1. addressed to God thru Jesus.
2. heard, understood and acknowledged by those who are being led.
3. appropriate in length, content, etc. to the occasion. (*no same ole, same ole*)

B. We are now studying how to pray when we are alone.

1. Fundamentals of prayer
 - a. Confident access ... w/o hesitation or trepidation
 - b. Why ... commanded for our good & God's glory
 - c. Preconditions ... Name of Jesus, in complete faith, according to God's will
2. Examined the form Jesus gave when asked to teach how to pray. S#3.
 - a. Prayer is a learned skill
 - b. It is a privilege extended to God's children.
 - c. Prayer must flow from a worshipful attitude.
 - d. It is not for special occasions ... it must be exercised daily.
 - e. Face-to-face with God in prayer motivates repentance
 - f. Prayer is the cry of a suppliant, thus, humble
 - g. One must pray persistently for his request. ... **"Pray without ceasing" I Thes. 5: 17**

C. This lesson will observe a fundamental element of ALL prayer ... PRAISE S#4.

1. Prayer should contain great praise.
2. Our praise to God should be joyous / gladness.
3. Our prayer must glorify God with praise.

** Praising God is a major overarching theme of the bible. Illustrated in Psalm #148*

I. Every prayer should contain great praise.

S#5.

A. Praise is an overarching theme in the scriptures.

1. Praising God is the most often repeated command in the scriptures. (**2 Tim 3.15**)
 - a. The word **"praise"** appears more than 543 times in the scriptures.

- b. The command or a declarative statement to **praise God** appears 250 times.
 - c. Other statements such as “**bless the Lord**” are also frequently mentioned.
2. Just in our texts praising God appears 13 times along with words like bless and extol.

B. Notice our text :

- 1. **Psa. 145: 1** – I will extol You, my God, O King, And I will bless Your name S#6.
forever and ever. **2** Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your
name forever and ever. **3** Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable.
- 2. David extols the greatness of the Lord.
- 3. God included this in the scriptures to teach us to do likewise; not as history.

C. Notice our other text.

- 1. **Psa. 148: 1** – Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; S#7.
Praise Him in the heights!
2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!
- 2. The prophets commands everyone/everything to praise God everywhere at all times.

D. This theme of the praiseworthiness of God is woven all through scripture.

- 1. **Exod. 15: 11** – Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, S#8.
majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?
- 2. **I Chron. 16: 25** – For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; ...
- 3. **Jer. 20: 13** – Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord! ...
- 4. **Dan. 2: 23** – To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,

E. In the Psalms the references are even more numerous.

- 1. **Psa. 146: 1** – Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! S#9.
2 I will praise the Lord while I live; ...
- 2. **Psa. 147: 1** – Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
For it is pleasant and praise is becoming.
- 3. **Psa. 135: 1** – Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord; Praise Him,
O servants of the Lord,
- 4. **Psa. 96: 4** – For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised

E. What does great praise mean to you ?

- 1. How often do you praise God ?
- 2. Do you just voice or think the words or are they heartfelt ?
- 3. Do you get in a rut and say the same thing in the same way every time ?
- 4. After thousands of prayers, do your prayers still flow from your heart ?

II. Our praise should be glad praise and an expression of joy.**S#10.**

A. As those who have been redeemed from eternal misery away from God, more than any others, our lives should be characterized by JOY.

1. The Apostles Peter would write during a time of persecution :

I Pet. 1: 8 – and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

S#11.

2. The Apostle Paul would write while imprisoned awaiting trial. (**I Thes 5: 16 .. rejoice**)

Phil. 4: 4 – Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

B. By inspiration, the psalmist of old would write :

1. **Psa. 27: 6b** – And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

S#12.

2. **Psa. 32: 11** – Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

3. **Psa. 70: 4** – Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified."

S#13.

4. **Psa. 63: 5** – My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.

C. Whether we do it in a group or individually, worship is a joyous occasion.

S#14.

1. David had the attitude of one who loves God.

Psa. 122: 1 – I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

2. David wrote psalms during the course of his life.

a. While with the sheep and on the battlefield.

b. The psalms represented the way his heart felt at the time. (*secret to prayer*)

D. The joy of the Lord is not just when circumstances make us happy.

1. The prophet made this fact very clear.

Hab. 3: 17 – Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, **18** Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

S#15.

2. Job had the same attitude when he was suddenly brought to poverty.

Job 1: 20 – Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. **21** He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

S#16.

E. One of the saddest sights in the whole world is to see a Christian who has lost his/her joy.

S#17.

1. I've heard them called "Robot Christians" or "Zombie Christians."
2. These just automatically go through the motions with neither emotion nor thought.
 - a. They can set and sing *Stand up for Jesus* (648) in 2/2 time and sleep the 3rd verse.
 - b. They get tired just singing *Tell Them of Jesus* (644).
3. How sad to see those who have been washed by the blood of Jesus file in, set through the service and then file out without feeling exuberated or even smiling.

F. What do you feel when you go before the throne of God ?

Psa. 122: 1 – I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

III. Praising God is a source of glory. (*Just the act of praying glorifies God*)

S#18.

A. Notice our texts :

1. **Psa. 148: 13** – Let them praise the name of the Lord, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.
2. **Psa. 145: 5** – On the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.

S#19.

B. The Spirit of God inspired the N.T. writers to speak in terms of His glory.

1. **John 1:14** – And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
2. **John 2:11** – This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.
3. **John 17: 24** – Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
4. **Luke 9: 32** – Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him.
5. **II Pet. 1: 17** – For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"
6. **Luke 5:25** – Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. ²⁶ They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."

S#20.

S#21.

S#22.

C. The essence of the Christian life is to bring glory to God.

1. **Matt. 5:16** – Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. **S#23.**
2. We glorify God by living morally pure lives.
I Cor. 6: 20 – For you have been bought with a price:
therefore glorify God in your body.
3. Our salvation “bought with a price” is a motivation for glorifying God.

D. We should glorify God with the words of our prayers.

1. **Psa. 66: 2** – Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious. **3** Say to God, **S#24.**
"How awesome are Your works! Because of the greatness of Your power
Your enemies will give feigned obedience to You. **4** All the earth will
worship You, And will sing praises to You; They will sing praises to Your name.
2. **Psa. 21: 13** – Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength;
3. **Psa. 48: 10** – As is Your name, O God, So is Your praise to the ends **S#25.**
of the earth; Your right hand is full of righteousness.
4. **Psa. 148: 13** – Let them praise the name of the Lord, For His name alone
is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.
5. **Psa. 99: 2** – The Lord is great in Zion, And He is exalted above all the peoples.
3 Let them praise Your great and awesome name; Holy is He.

CONCLUSION :

A. We serve a great and a wonderful God so our praises for Him must be great.. **S#26.**

1. He speaks worlds into and out of existence.
2. No enemy can stand before Him, but He watches over us as a loving father.

B. Praising God should make us glad, should bring us joy.

1. He loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to save us.
2. Because He saved all who obey His Son, we live in anticipation of Heaven.

C. The very fact that we pray glorifies God in the heavenly realm.

1. The angels that hear our prayers glorify God when we glorify Him.
2. The one who loves us longs to hear us affirm our love for Him. **S#27.**

D. It behooves us to become comfortable with the language of praise. (Psalms)

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :

Psalms #145: 1-7

1 I will extol You, my God, O King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
3 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.
4 One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.
5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.
6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, And I will tell of Your greatness.
7 They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness
And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.

Psalms 148: 1-14

1 Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
Praise Him in the heights!
2 Praise Him, all His angels;
Praise Him, all His hosts!
3 Praise Him, sun and moon;
Praise Him, all stars of light!
4 Praise Him, highest heavens,
And the waters that are above the heavens!
5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
For He commanded and they were created.
6 He has also established them forever and ever;
He has made a decree which will not pass away.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, Sea monsters and all deeps;
8 Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;
9 Mountains and all hills; Fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Beasts and all cattle; Creeping things and winged fowl;
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth;
12 Both young men and virgins; Old men and children.

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, For His name alone is exalted;
His glory is above earth and heaven.
14 And He has lifted up a horn for His people, Praise for all His godly ones;
Even for the sons of Israel, a people near to Him.