

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What's Praise All About?

Psalm 66:1-20

¹ What's praise all about?

Psalm 66 says a lot about praise. Observe. ²

Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name.” Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf! ¹ ³

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot — come, let us rejoice in him. He rules forever by his power; his eyes watch the nations — let not the rebellious rise up against him. Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. For you, O God, tested us; You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let

¹ Psalm 66:1-5.

men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.^{2 4}

I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you — vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble. I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats. Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.^{3 5}

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!⁴

Whenever my mother would attend a Sunday worship service when I was presenting the message she would rave about my sermon. But she was, well, my mom! In

² Psalm 66:6-12.

³ Psalm 66:13-17.

⁴ Psalm 66:18-20.

spite of that relationship, however, her praise always made me feel special. ⁶

In the Bible praise is a natural response to God's grace. Romans, chapter 15, verse 9, . . . **the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name."** ⁷ Luke, chapter 19, verse 37, **When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"** ⁸

God loves the praises of His people! ⁹

I. What is Praise?

What is praise? ¹⁰

It's called **adoration** when you praise God for Who He is. ¹¹

He is the great master of the universe; the Creator of everything. Let us come before him with thanksgiving

and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. ⁵ ₁₂

He is your Heavenly Father Who loves you dearly. In the Lord's story about the lost son; ⁶ this type of father is described. God is the type of Father who cherishes his sons, forgives them completely and readily welcomes them home. ₁₃

It's called **thanksgiving when you praise God for what He has done.** ₁₄ **Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all**

⁵ Psalm 95:2-3.

⁶ Luke 15:20-24 - So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

generations. ⁷ It should be very natural for you to say, “Thank you” to Him often! ¹⁵

II. Why Does God Want It?

Why does God want it?

Let me ask you this question. How does it make you feel when your child looks up at you and sincerely says, “Thank you, Daddy”? ¹⁶

God wants it because **He is worthy** of your praise. ¹⁷ God created you, gave you everything you have and have ever experienced. ¹⁸ He, then, went to the cross to redeem you. ¹⁹ You can live victoriously with Him now and forever in heaven! ²⁰

God wants it because **He needs it!**

It’s hard for us to think of God needing anything, right? ²¹

He may have similar needs that you and I have. Why might I say that?

⁷ Psalm 100:4-5.

We were created in His image and likeness. ²²
Genesis, chapter 1, verse 26 and 27 says, **Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**

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Image ⁸ means, literally, a statue or replica. It’s a duplicate of something. ²⁴

Likeness ⁹ means a resemblance, a model or a shape made from a pattern.

We are far from being a replica of God, of course. But maybe He created in us to share some characteristics like emotional needs. ²⁵

The Bible does mention God having human emotions.

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⁸ צֶלֶם.

⁹ דְּמוּת.

For instance, He has **anger**. Hebrews, chapter 3, verses 10 and 11, **That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' So I declared on oath in my anger, They shall never enter my rest.'**" ²⁷

God **laughs!** Psalm 2, verse 4, **The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.** ²⁸

I believe God created you to satisfy His loneliness and to have companionship with Him! God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. ¹⁰

God wants your time and your conversation. He desires your prayers and praise! So . . . ²⁹

¹⁰ Genesis 3:8 - Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

III. How Can You Give Him Praise?

How can you give Him praise? God's Bible tells us we can do it in at least three ways! ³⁰

First, we can do it **through singing**. ³¹ Nehemiah, chapter 12, verse 27 says, **At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres**. ³² Singing is an expression of adoration we can all do together in worship. We are His redeemed family! ³³

Second, we can do it **through talking to Him**. ³⁴

Philippians, chapter 4, verse 6, **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God**. ³⁵ Then, in First Timothy, chapter 2, verse 1, **I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers,**

intercession and thanks-giving be made for everyone .

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Third, **through worship together.** ³⁷ Our whole purpose for gathering together on Sundays is to express gratitude to the Lord! ³⁸

The central part of this event is partaking of the Lord's Supper, which is, in part, an expression of thanksgiving. First Corinthians, chapter 10, verse 16, explains, **Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?** ³⁹

Talk to God often! Sing to Him often! Study His Word often! Let Him know how much you love and appreciate Him often!

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