

The Power in Praise

What do you mean by Praise? The Oxford Dictionary explains Praise as ‘to express approval, admiration or the expression of respect and gratitude as an act of worship’. Now giving approval means that we accept or agree with what we approve of. Today the phrases “Praise the Lord” or even “Thank God” are used so frequently in our everyday language that they lose the depth and the sincerity that are supposed to go with them.

We can’t really praise God without being thankful for the thing that we are praising Him for and we can’t really be thankful without being happy about whatever we are thankful for. Being happy and praising God for that may sometimes be considered natural human response. But is it possible to do the same when we are in difficult situations as we Christians are taught to do. It says in 1Thes 5:18 “give thanks in all circumstances,” So to praise God in a difficult situation means to accept and approve of what is happening as part of God’s plan for our lives.

Praise is based on a total and joyful acceptance of the present, as part of God’s loving and perfect will for us. Problems may sometimes seem to pile up the more we pray and cry about it. Turning point in life will only come when we start to praise Him. The one and only way to gain victory over difficult situation is to praise and glorify God. Psalms 37:4 say, “Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Now of course praising Him with an eye secretly on the future good results is not going to change anything.

For God to move us to the next step in His plan we need to accept our present situation as a part of that plan. We need to be encouraged by Jehoshaphat’s story. It says in II Chron 20:15 “ Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.” It goes on to say in verse 17 that “ You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you.”

The only way out of a dilemma is the step of faith. In John 14:12 Jesus says, “...Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these...” Jesus himself praised God while feeding the 5000. In John 11:41 we again see the Jesus simply gave a prayer of Thanksgiving before raising Lazarus. Thus praise is an active response for what is happening in our lives.

Do not doubt in your hearts, because then you can’t praise whole-heartedly. Praise unlocks the doors of heaven, praise brings down blessings, praise give us joy, praise takes us to the next level in God’s perfect plan. When we praise with our heart we become true worshippers of God. Lets pray and encourage one another so that we all become true worshippers of our Living Father in Heaven.