

# PRAISE & WORSHIP 1



## Introduction

The word praise is used many times in the Bible, especially in the Psalms. Usually we begin our meetings with a time to praise and worship, and perhaps we have thought that it is just part of a service, like the message is. But praise and worship is to become part of our lives. Jesus said in John 4, "The Father is seeking for worshippers", so this must be important to God. We need to know what the Word of God teaches us about this and how we can put it into practise in our lives. Let's begin with praise, and we will look at 5 questions. The first is, who praises?

## 1. WHO PRAISES?

### A. God Himself

Praise originates with God himself. Heaven is filled with praise and God has given all his creation the ability to praise him. He is the creator of music. From his very presence comes glory, light and music. How does God express his delight in us?

Zephaniah 3:17 *'he will rejoice over you with singing'*

### B. God's Creation

As we have seen all of God's creation is praising him. When God created the universe he put music into every part of it. Look up the following verses to see what is praising God.

Psalm 148:8-10 *Sea creatures, ocean depths, lightning, hail, snow, clouds, winds, mountains, hills, fruit trees, cedars, wild animals, cattle, small creatures and flying birds*

Psalm 103:22 *'Praise the Lord all his works, everywhere in his dominion.'*

There are many other verses, but this is sufficient to show us that all of God's creation are praising him, just like an orchestra! Scientists have discovered that the stars have sounds coming from them, but this was written in God's Word thousands of years ago. No wonder we often sense God's presence when we are surrounded by his creation. Have you ever felt that?

### C. God's Angels

Long before God created man, he created a great number of angels. When the Apostle John was caught up into Heaven he saw myriads of angels praising and serving God. How many angels did he see? The number probably indicates that there were too many to count!

Revelation 5:11 *'thousands upon thousands, ten thousand times ten thousand'*

Who are they praising? *Jesus, the Lamb who was slain*

## D. Man Himself

So we can see that all of God's creation was made to praise him, including man himself. We see this in Psalm 148.

Psalm 148:11-13 *Kings, young men and maidens, old men and children.*

Whether we are great or small, young or old, we are exhorted to praise the Lord. In fact we are told in Isaiah 43:21 that God has created us for himself, so that we will proclaim his praise. God has given us the ability to make music, and we are to respond to his love by praising and worshipping him. Satan knows that music is powerful, and seeks to get men and women, especially young people, to worship him through music. Let's learn to use music only for the glory of God!

## 2. WHY DO WE PRAISE?

Why should we praise God? First of all, because he is worthy!

### A. God is Worthy

Why were the living creatures and elders worshipping God?

Revelation 4:11 *'He is worthy to receive glory, honour and power for he has created all things and by his will they were created and have their being.'*

God is worthy to receive our praise because he is Creator and we depend on him for our very existence. Notice that these living creatures gave glory, honour and thanks to God. This is what we call praise. Praise includes thanksgiving and praise. We see both mentioned in Psalm 100,

Psalm 100:4 *'Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.'*

**??** What do you think is the difference between thanksgiving and praise? Discuss

**Thanksgiving** = expressing thanks to God for **WHAT** he has done

**Praise** = telling God how wonderful he is, or boasting of how good he is.

} Both focus on what God has done.

Psalm 105:1-2 *We are to thank him for what he has done and praise him for his wonderful acts.*

Praise and thanksgiving are closely linked together and help prepare us to truly worship. It goes beyond praise. Worship is when we lift our hearts to God for **WHO** he is. In Psalm 95 it speaks of thanking and extolling God, and then it says, 'Come let us bow down in worship before the Lord our maker for he is our God.' Many of God's people do not really know who God is – they think of him as a strict taskmaster and they find it hard to express their love to him. However the more we understand his love for us, the more we will want to worship him.

## **B. God Created us for this Purpose**

Man has been created in the image of God – we are a spirit being, with a soul and we live in a body. Our physical body needs food and our soul needs love, but our spirit was made to worship. Everyone yearns to worship something or someone – but we are only truly satisfied when we worship the One who created us. What happens when we worship idols?

Psalm 115:4, 8 *‘But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men ... those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.’*

God forbade his people to worship idols. There is nothing that we can make that would resemble his glory and majesty. When man worships idols it attracts evil spirits. In Psalm 115 it tells us that the result is that man becomes like the very idols he worships.

However what happens when we worship the Lord Jesus Christ? It tells us in 2 Corinthians 3:18,

2 Corinthians 3:18 *‘And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.’*

The more we praise and worship Jesus and spend time in his presence, the more like him we become. Who and what we worship is important!

## **3. WHEN DO WE PRAISE?**

Sadly some believers only praise God in church! Look at the following verses to see when we should praise the Lord.

Philippians 4:4 *‘Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!’*

Ephesians 5:19-20 *‘Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything.’*

Always! Not just on Sundays but every day. Not just when we feel like it, but all the time.

**??** What does it mean to praise the Lord all the time? How is this possible?

## **Conclusion**

God has created us to worship him. This is not just something we do on a Sunday at Church, but it should be our way of life, where we are continually thanking and praising him for what he has done. As we said at the beginning, God is looking for those who will truly worship him. Will you be one of them?