

The ingredients to our build love for God Pt 3 Praise Him

This is our third teaching on the necessary ingredients to build our love for God. In our previous study we covered three points- (I) pray without ceasing, (ii) prayer and fasting, (iii) receive the word with all readiness of mind and search the scriptures daily. In this study we will cover three additional points- (I) Praise ye the LORD, (ii) Sing praise to His name, (iii) In worship we praise the LORD- as one congregation, and as individuals.

There are 261 occurrences of the word "praise" in the scriptures.

To establish a little more detail on our three points we search the scriptures for every occurrence of the word praise..

1. Praise ye the LORD

Paul encouraged the church- all ye Gentiles to Praise the LORD

"And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people." (Rom.15: 11).

We praise His glorious name

"Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name" (1 Chr.29: 13).

Those who are Jews today, are circumcised in their heart, in their spirit and whose praise is NOT of men by of God- Rom.2:29- "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God".

The book of Psalms encourages us to praise the LORD

"Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord" (Ps.104:35). See also Ps.105: 45, 106:12, 106:47, 106:48, 112:1, 113:1, 117:1, 113:9 , 115:18, 116:19, 118:19, 135:1, 135:3, 135:21, 146:1, 146:2, 146:10, 147:1, 147:12, 148:1, 148:2, 148:3, 148:4, 148:5, 148:7, 149:1, 147:7, 147:20, 150:1

2. Sing praise to His name

"Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name" (2 Sam.22:50).

The king of Israel and the princes commanded the Levite to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer- **and they sung with gladness**, bowed their heads and worshipped "Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the Lord with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped" (2 Chr.29: 30).

David made instrument of music to praise the LORD because His mercy endures for ever

"And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the Lord, which David the king had made to praise the Lord, because his mercy [endureth] for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood" (2 Chr.7: 6)
See also Ps.33:2 & 2 Chr.5: 13.

3. In worship we praise the LORD- as one congregation, and as individuals

a) All the congregation when they came together said amen to the promise of Nehemiah and praised the LORD

"Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the Lord. And the people did according to this promise" (Neh.5: 13).

b) priests and Levites were appointed their courses by the king- to minister, to give thanks and to praise in the gates of the tents of the LORD

"And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the Lord" (2 Chr.31: 2).

The Levites praise and give thanks according to the commandment of David

[23] The sons of Levi, the chief of the fathers, were written in the book of the chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.

[24] And the chief of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brethren over against them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, ward over against ward. (Neh.12: 23-24).

Illustration

One of the five love languages that men need to recognise and have embedded in their hearts is that of affirmation. Where we affirm our wives, we compliment them, not just for the sake of complimenting, but for that which we see in them, in their actions. If we never compliment or praise our spouse and their love language (by which they know they are loved) will be less felt, and less received, compared to those who recognise and take action on a regular basis. The more we see and acknowledge the loving heart of our spouse- how selfless & giving their hearts are- the more our love will grow for them.

Questions

- i) Why are we to praise the LORD?
- ii) How does praising the LORD build our love for Him?

Answers from the scriptures

- i) We praise the name of the LORD for His lovingkindness

“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name” (Ps138: 2).

The disciples rejoiced and praised God FOR the mighty works they had seen- Lk 19:37- “And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen.”

- ii) Our love for the Lord will grow as we praise the LORD because praise of the LORD comes from the heart, and we are to love the LORD with all of our heart.

David praised the LORD with his whole heart- Ps.9: 1- “A Psalm of David. I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works”. See also Ps.111:1 & 138: 1.

We are to love the LORD with all of our heart - Deut.10:12- “And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul”.

We love God because He first loved us

[10] Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

[18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

[19] We love him, because he first loved us. 1 John 4:10, 18-19

David praised the LORD BECAUSE of His lovingkindness is better than life

“Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee” (Ps.63: 3).

Praise His name for His lovingkindness and for His truth Psalm 138:2- “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name”.

The more our heart is exposed to worship, to praising the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the more we will exalt His name, and demonstrate our love for Him. Therefore, let us spend our days, each moment of each day- as David did- praising God for His tender mercies, His truth and His mighty works- the greatest of which, the traditional churches celebrate at Christmas- with the birth of Jesus- God’s only begotten Son!

Such lovingkindness is better than life itself and will cause a spiralling effect: where our hearts will respond to His lovingkindness, and burn with desire to praise the Lord Jesus Christ, and the more we praise Him, the more our hearts will be strengthened in our love for Him! Amen!