

Kingdom Feature, June 2020

Expecting More: By Understanding How To Move Into A Higher Dimension Of Praise and Worship - Praise, Part 2

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Praise — Acknowledging, Decreeing, and Proclaiming the Greatness and Awe-Inspiring Majesty of the Lord Our God

What is praise? One dictionary definition is *to command, applaud, express approval or admiration of, extol in words or songs, magnify, glorify. (to honor, celebrate) Praise is based on and focuses both on the character of God, and the acts He does toward us, His children.* All expressions of praise have faith as their basis, when the Jews heard the word for praise, they understood a lot more than we do today because they understood the meaning of it. The Hebrew words for praise are:

YADAH (3034) - to throw out hands, to worship with extended hands, **Psalms 7:1, 28:7, 33:2, 42:5, 44:8, 63:4, 100:4, 134:2.** Our hands are an extension of our inward nature. It is an expression of a deep surrender to God and it is an extension of our hearts desiring to exalt Him.

TOWDAH (8426) - Go back and read Part 1 on thanksgiving.

HALAL (1984) - (root word for hallelu-jah) to shine, boast over God, celebrate foolishly. Praise to Yahweh, speaking the glorious attributes, workings, mercy, goodness, power, love, etc. to God. **Psalms 104-106** are perfect examples of this. An abandonment of self and a boasting in the Lord and being in love with the Lord.

TEHILLAH (8416) - to sing halal, a hymn, a song of spontaneous praise, glorying in God in song. This is the kind of praise God inhabits. There are more than 300 times where we are exhorted to sing with some different Hebrew words for 'sing' so psalms, hymns, etc. could be praise and yet not be tehillah. It is songs of the spirit - unprepared - that flow forth spontaneously from our spirits. It implies total involvement of oneself in

praise to God. **Psalms 100:4, 22:3, 9:14, 33:1, 34:1, 65:1, 147:1-2, 149:1-2, Isaiah 61:3.**

SHABACK (7623) - to address in a loud voice, tone, shout. To command, triumph, or glory; to shout proclaiming with a loud voice. **Psalms 63:3, 117:1, 145:4, 147:12.** The phrase 'shout unto the Lord' can be understood as the action of Shaback - **Psalms 32:11, 35:27, 47:1, 65:13, 132:19.**

BARAK (1288) - to kneel or bow down and to bless God or to give reverence to God as an act of adoration. It implies a continual, conscious acknowledgment of God - an attitude of expectancy, in a worshipful attitude expecting to receive, but it is not a begging attitude, but yielded. Praise, salute, thanks. Often translated to bless or blessed — **Judges 5:2; Psalms 16:7, 34:1, 63:4, 66:8, 100:4, 96:2, 103:1-2, 20-22, 134:1-3.**

ZAMAR (2167) - to touch the strings; to sing and play with instruments. Translated many times as "sing praises" and implies the singing of praise, in set composition of words and music. This kind of praise is mostly rejoicing. **I Chronicles 15:16.** Praise — **Psalms 21:13, 57:7, 108:1, 138:1.** Sing praises — **9:11, 18:49, 27:6, 47:6, 92:1, 108:3, 147:1.**

Praise should be a spontaneous expression from the heart, a natural expression of our love for God.

We praise God not because He needs it, but rather because we are dependent on His response to our praise; He is worthy of our praise. Not until we praise Him can we come into a proper relationship with Him, and without a thankful heart we can't grow in the grace of God.

God is enthroned in our praises — **Psalm 22:3.** He sits on, inhabits our praises. God sits on a throne, so when we praise Him we are offering Jesus a throne to sit upon. In this way you acknowledge Him as your King. Praise doesn't command or bring God's presence as much as it acknowledges that He is present. Praise is not so much God coming into our presence, as it is our going into His presence. We are entering His gates not Him entering our gates. Draw near to Him so will He draw near to us, **James 4:8.** When we praise, our hearts are stirred by The Holy Spirit and we become more conscious of God's presence.

Praise stills the enemy — **Psalm 8:2;** It is good to praise the Lord — **Psalm 92:1** We are created to praise Him — **Jeremiah 13:11; Isaiah 43:21; Ephesians 1:4-6; and I Peter 2:9;** Praise is a beautiful garment, praise from the upright is beautiful. **Psalm 33:11; Isaiah 61:3;** It is fitting for the upright to praise Him — **Psalm 33:1.**

Our corporate times of Praise should be a wonderful celebration and the by-product of an entire week of Praise unto the Lord. Praise is a lifestyle, demonstrating your continual trust in your heavenly Father. Because you trust God and you believe that

what He has promised He is also able to perform, your heart magnifies and gives Him praise. **{Romans 4:20-21}**

So Just How Do We Praise The Lord?

1. **Praise the Lord with all my heart** — Psalms 9:1, 111:1, 138:1
2. **Praise the Lord with my understanding** — Psalm 47:7
3. **Lifting up our hands** — Psalms 63:4, 134:2, 141:2, I Tim 2:8
4. **Clapping** — Psalm 47:1
5. **Playing of instruments** — Psalms 33:2-3, 57:9, 150:3-5
6. **Standing** — II Chronicles 5:12, Psalm 135:2, Revelation 4:9-11
7. **Kneeling, bowing and prostration** — Psalm 95:6, Revelation 19:4, Ephesians 3:14, Philippians 2:10-11
8. **Singing** — Psalm 47:6; Audible — Psalms 26:7, 66:8, 17, 98:4; Acts 16:25; Praise is not praise until it is heard — Psalm 63:5, with joyful mouth and lips.
9. **Dancing, leaping** — Psalms 30:11, 149:3, 150:4; Exodus 15:20-21, Acts 3:8; II Samuel 6:14-16.
10. **Shouting** — Psalms 47:1, 35:27
11. **Singing in tongues** — I Corinthians 14:15, allows us to express our praises to the Lord directly from our spirits.

I Expect More because I will offer thanksgiving and praise continually to the Lord My God. I enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise, I will exalt Him with all that is within me, I will bless His Holy name. I offer my thanksgiving and praise willingly, and I am not ashamed to decree, proclaim, and shout unto the Lord my God with a loud voice. As I offer thanksgiving and praise to the Lord my God, my life will be filled with the glory of the Lord, and I will triumph, walk in victory, and live as more than a conqueror in everything that I say and do.