

How to Raise God's Praise

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Psalm 51:1-17

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;

According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity

And cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,

And my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned

And done what is evil in Your sight,

So that You are justified when You speak

And blameless when You judge.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

And in sin my mother conceived me.

⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,

And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness,

Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide Your face from my sins

And blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence

And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation

And sustain me with a willing spirit.

¹³ *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways,

And sinners will be converted to You.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation;

Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,

That my mouth may declare Your praise.

¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Sing! Conference in Nashville, TN.

God desires and deserves our worship.

God wants us to be a people who give Him praise.

Praise is not about the art. It's all about the heart!

Praise starts WITH the heart; And praise starts IN your heart.

How do we raise God's praise? Three thoughts this morning.

1. Raise God's Praise from a FAITHFUL Heart

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

- A. Psalm 51 is David's psalm of confession after sinning against God by committing adultery with Bathsheba and murdering her husband, Uriah the Hittite. And this psalm gives great insight into losing your heart of worship, and most importantly, how to get it back.
- B. David was an amazing, praising King!
- He wrote 100s of songs of praise to God.
 - His songs were featured on 106.9 the Light.
 - Joy FM played his music 24/7.
 - He was not just Leader of Israel, but he was a Leader of worship IN Israel.

But o how things went south when he gave his heart away to a forbidden woman; and for nearly 1 year, David lost his heart of praise to God.

vv. 14-15 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise.

- C. In that year he didn't have the heart to write praise songs anymore;
- He didn't have the heart to attend worship services anymore;
 - He didn't have the heart to play in the worship band.
 - He didn't have the heart to sing on the worship team or in the choir.
 - And certainly, his songs became silent throughout the land, and people must have wondered and talked among themselves...

What's happened to David? Where's David?

I no longer hear David's songs on the radio.

I no longer see David at church.

He had such a heart of praise for God.

- D. Maybe that's your story:
- You used to have such a heart of praise for God.
 - You used to have a song of praise throughout your day;
 - You had leap in your feet; a pep in your step, and a smile in your mile.
You used to be a happy clappy,
But now you're draggin' your wagon.

- E. Can I tell you what may have happened?
- You turned your heart away...to something that got your heart off of God; or someone turned your heart from God. To the degree that...
- God's no longer Number 1 in your life.
God's not top priority in your life.
God's not receiving the highest praise from your life.
God's no longer your joy and no longer the one you treasure above all else.

- No wonder you can sit through a worship service and say it's boring...
- No wonder the music doesn't stir your heart.
- No wonder you have trouble singing voluminously (with your outside voice) praise to your God.
- No wonder the message doesn't motivate you to draw nearer to God.
- No wonder at the end of the service you hold back from going to the altar and calling upon the Lord.
- No wonder church for you is such a drag.

F. What do you expect church and praise and worship to be when your heart does not fully and faithfully belong to God?

Where do you think a heart of praise really comes from?

- Magnificent music?
- Traditional Hymns?
- Modern-day worship songs?
- Powerful preaching?

Who's fault is it if you leave here today and have not really worshipped God? (experienced a fresh touch and fresh word from God).

- Is it the music ministry's fault?
- Is it the preacher's fault?
- Or is it your fault?

G. Here's the biblical truth:

The depth of your worship of God is determined by the devotion of your heart to God.

When something steals your devotion to God, it negatively affects your praise of God.

H. That's why it's time you take seriously this question:

What have you allowed to steal your praise of God?

Answer: It's whatever has your heart.

It's what consumes your thoughts, talk, & walk.

I. Your JOB can steal your praise (demands & pressure)

- WORRY will steal your praise (carrying a load of concerns)
- UNFORGIVENESS will steal your praise (you've been wounded by someone – can't let it go)
- ADDICTIONS will steal your praise (video games, social media, shopping, internet)
- ATHLETICS can steal your praise.

J. Here's what I have discovered:

1. What you invest into worship, is what you get out of worship.

Little investment = little return

Lot of investment = lot of return

2. The more you connect with God, the more your heart desires to praise God.

Here's why: You praise what your heart chases after (value most)

ILL. My heart valued baseball

My heart valued me-time; freedom to do whatever I wanted.

3. Your connection with God needs protection.

I must protect how I connect God.

So for me:

Worship at church on Sundays and Wednesdays are protected.

Reading God's Word and prayer are protected.

I protect it, because I know I'm prone to wander, Lord I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love.

God created you and saved you to give Him the highest praise.

If you are ever to raise God's praise to the level God created you and saved you, it's not going to happen until you decide to have a **FAITHFUL HEART**; determine to have a **COMMITTED HEART** to God.

2. Raise God's Praise from a FRACTURED Heart (vv. 16-17)

¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Determine to have a Contrite Heart (v. 17)

- A. You can sing, clap, hear the Word, shout "Amen", take notes on the sermon;
And you may have been PRESENT, but you completely missed God's PRESENCE.

In other words, YOU are here physically, but you are not here spiritually.

- B. Praising God is not just singing all the verses of "Amazing Grace."
Praising God is not simply agreeing with all that is said and sung during a service.
Praising God is more than giving your time, talent, and treasures.
Praising God is not about singing on the right note.
It's about singing on God's note.

It's not about singing in the right key. It's about singing in God's key.

C. And David informs us what God's key is:

V. 16 For you do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; you are not pleased with burnt offering.

Before David's life got turned upside down, his concept of praise & worship involved lots of sheep & sacrifices; He would take sheep with him to the temple, give it to the priest...and the priest would kill it (sacrifice it) on David's behalf and declare David accepted by God.

In other words, for David, praise was not a heart matter, it was a duty matter; it was a rule matter.

- He thought God was pleased with him because he showed up at the church house.
- He thought God approved of him because he sung to Him.
- He thought God accepted him, because he sacrificed to Him.
- He thought God favored him, because he played his harp for Him.

D. And many of us are no better than David.

You give God an hour and you expect His blessings the rest of the week.

You believe if you show up, God's going to show His approval of you.

You think since you are doing God a favor, He's going to do you favors.

E. But God's not on that note!

You can sit, sing, shout, serve, and soak it all in, but God is not looking for a show from you.

Can I tell what God's looking from you?

- He's looking for brokenness from you.
- He's looking for unworthiness from you.

v. 17b, "a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."

F. Praise is raised from a FRACTURED Heart!

What do I mean by a "FRACTURED" heart?

- I don't have it all together with God.
- I'm sorry I'm not fully surrendered to God.
- I long to be like God.

G. Did you know there are 2 ways you can COME to worship, and there are 2 ways you can LEAVE worship?

Just read the story about the Pharisee & the tax collector in Luke 18:11-14. Both went to the temple to worship.

¹¹ The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other;

- You can come to church like you've got it all together or you can come to church realizing without Jesus you're falling apart.
- You can leave dignified or you can leave justified.

H. David needed a heart adjustment. If he was going to raise God's praise...he needed to get off his high horse and stop acting like he had it all together...and develop a heart that would long for God to put him together.

And when you have a heart where you are open to God putting you together...praising God will never be a problem.

You won't have to work it up. It will be worked out. Because you realize without Jesus you are nothing!

Does anyone know the last 3 letters in the word "CHRISTIAN"?

CHRISTIAN – ends in the letters IAN (I Am Nothing)

Raise God's Praise from a Fractured Heart

3. Raise God's Praise from a FULL Heart

¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

A. David's prayer included a concern that he would not experience God's presence, God's power, and God's peace in his life.

Literally, when the HS was grieved, He would leave.

B. Good news is that today when you get saved, you are baptized by the HS; and God promises He will never leave you nor forsake you.

The HS is Jesus in you and Jesus is in you forever!

C. But listen: You can be baptized by the Spirit and not be filled with the Spirit.
Eph. 5:18 Paul commanded us to be filled with the Holy Spirit (continuously filled)

John 4:23 – true worshipers will worship God in spirit and in truth (worship of God will be different, because it will be through the Spirit of Jesus)

- D. Raising God's praise doesn't just require a Faithful Heart, Fractured Heart, it requires a FULL Heart – a heart that is FULL of the Spirit; full of the Spirit of Jesus.

Eph. 5:18-19

be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

How do you get filled with the Spirit?
Answer: you get full of His Word.

Col. 3:16

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

When you are in the Word, on your knees, in His Church, desperately needing Jesus, you will raise God's praise.

- E. The church house ought to be packed out and full of praise of God.

But do you know why so many churches are not full of people praising God?

Because the people are already full:

- Full of themselves.
- Full of this world.

And when you are full of yourself and full of this world, you won't be full of God. And when you aren't full of God, you won't be full of praise of God.

Conclusion:

Preacher from Africa – visited American churches
Wept; because they lacked fervor and fire.

In Africa, the church are packed; they are serious about praising God; all day at church

In America, God is optional.
In Africa, God is essential.

In America, people don't need God.
In Africa, we can't make it without God.

Wow!! What a word!

- A. The real reason we struggle with raising God's praise is because WE DON'T NEED GOD.

Praise is not a church matter. It's a heart matter.
And you should have a heart that says, "I can't make it without God."

B. God is calling you to raise His praise.

But you need:

- A Faithful Heart
- A Fractured Heart
- A Full Heart

C. God is calling you to give Him the praise He deserves and desires.

God is calling you to raise His praise.

Will you do so today?

Will you do so Monday, Tuesday...every day.

Will you make praise not a Sunday thing, but a life-thing?

It starts with you getting serious with your relationship with God.