

## PRAISE AND WORSHIP

1. Praise is preoccupied with who God is and what he has done. Focuses on his incomparable character and his wondrous acts on behalf of his children.
2. Distinctive of praise concerns its extroverted nature. Characterized by celebration and exhilaration and is expressed through singing, shouting, speaking forth, playing of musical instruments, dancing, and other external forms.
3. Praise is “raising much to-do about God.” A study of the Old Testament clearly reveals that the hebrew people were very emotional and vocal in their expressions of praise and adoration before God.
4. Praise begins with a mind set upon God, but then those thoughts must be put into action in order to qualify as praise.
5. Praise is to be declared or manifested. Ps. 66:8. Let the sound of his praise be heard. Praise is not praise until it is vocalized or shown forth. Praise can be shown forth in the countenance and bodily expression.
6. God wants us to praise him authentically and genuinely, incorporating the scriptural forms of praise as a willing sacrifice.
7. Ps 103:1. Praise the Lord O my soul. Praise is exercise of our will.
8. When we are truly impacted with the greatness of God, praise comes easily.
9. One delightful way to concentrate on the character of God is by studying the names of God.
  - a. Ps 54:6
  - b. Ps 34:3
  - c. Ex 15:26
  - d. Gen 22
  - e. Ez 48:35
10. Judah and praise. Gen 29:35. “This time I will praise the Lord.”
  - a. Ps 114:2. Judah became God’s sanctuary. All Israel is God’s domain, but he sets up his sanctuary in Judah.
  - b. Ps 76:1. Church vs. Praisers
  - c. Joel 3:18
  - d. Zech 2:12
  - e. Ps 108:8
  - f. 2 Sam 5. David ruled over Judah 7 years.
11. Why should we praise the Lord?
  - a. Commanded. Ps 150:1
  - b. God is enthroned in our praise. Ps 22:3 Is 60:18. Gates relates to praise. Ps 87:2
  - c. There is power in praise.
  - d. It is a good thing to praise the Lord. Ps 92:1
  - e. He is worthy of our praise.
    - i. Ps 48:1
    - ii. Rev 4:11
  - f. We were created to praise the Lord. Jer 13:11. 1 Pet 2:9. Is 43:21
12. When should we praise the Lord?
  - a. When you feel like it.
  - b. When you don’t feel like it.
  - c. A good time to praise the Lord is now.

- d. Rising up early to bless the Lord. Ps 57:8. Ps 119:62. 1 Chron 9:33. Heb 13:15. Ps 34:1
13. Where should we praise the Lord?
- a. Everywhere.
  - b. In the congregation.
    - i. Ps 22:22,25.
    - ii. Ps 26:8,12
    - iii. Ps 35:18
    - iv. Ps 68:24-26
    - v. Ps 69:9
    - vi. Ps 107:32
    - vii. Ps 122:1
  - c. Unity and variety of congregational worship.
    - i. Incense used in the holy of holies was compounded from several different fragrances.
    - ii. Distinction between unity and uniformity to one set standard.
  - d. Before all men and nations.
    - i. Ps 96:3
    - ii. Ps 40:3

How should we praise the Lord?

- a. Lifting of hands.
  - i. Neh. 8:6; Ps 28:2; 63:4; 134:2; 141:2; 1 Tim 2:8
  - ii. Between the wings of the cherubim (our raised hands) the Lord would meet with us.
  - iii. Pick me up daddy!
  - iv. Better able to concentrate upon task of praying.
  - v. Surrender.
  - vi. Symbolically receive everything God is doing in our lives.
- b. Clapping hands.
  - i. Ps 47:1
  - ii. Important to link the clapping of hands with a heart that ascends unto the Lord.
  - iii. Means of making a joyful noise unto the Lord.
- c. Playing of musical instruments. Ps 150:3-5
- d. Standing.
  - i. No chairs in holy place. Priests continually stood before the Lord as they fulfilled their ministry.
  - ii. 2 Chron 5:12;7:6;29:26; Ps 135:2; Rev 4:9-11.
  - iii. Standing serves two purposes.
    - Speaks of respect.
    - Indicates alertness.
- e. Kneeling, bowing, and prostration.
  - i. Ps 95:6.
  - ii. Rev 19:4
- f. Singing.

- g. Should praise the Lord audibly. Ps 26:7
  - h. Should be manifested such as in dance. If praise is not heard, it should be seen.
    - i. Ex 15:20-21; 2 Sam 6:14-16; Ps 30:11, 149:3; Acts 3:8
    - ii. Can be distracting. Use dance troupes during musicals and special representations and restricting dancing in the congregational worship services to individual expressions of spontaneity. Musical and representations are staged with the expectation that people will watch and be inspired.
    - iii. Dancing way to release ourselves more fully to love the Lord with all our might and strength.
    - iv. After you hop, be straight in your walk.. Very visible form of worship; any spiritual inconsistencies in the life of the dancer become more immediately glaring.
    - v. It is easier to restrain a fanatic than to raise a corpse.
    - vi. Many of God's saints have been hindered from entering a deeper experience in the Lord simply because they were not willing to initiate a physical release.
    - vii. If we are reserved physically before the Lord, it is a sign that we are probably reserved spiritually before him as well.
  - i. Shouting.
    - Ps 47:1
    - In the NIV, joyful noise is translated Shout for Joy to the Lord. Ps 66:1; 81:1; 95:1-2; 98:4-6; 100:1
- Speaking in tongues.