

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: THE FLOW OF GOD

I. THE RIVER OF GOD.

- A. ***Shall make glad the city of God.***(Psa 46:4 KJV) There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.
- B. (Joel 3:18 KJV) And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.
- C. (John 7:38 KJV) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (John 7:39 KJV) (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)
- D. (Jer 31:12 KJV) Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. (Jer 31:13 KJV) Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.
 - 1. Praise for the goodness of God.
 - 2. Praise for His provisions of wheat, wine, and oil.
 - 3. Joy in the house of the Lord.
 - a. Soul as a watered garden (realm of emotions prosperous).
 - b. Mourning into joy.
 - c. Dancing for joy.

II. THE CHURCH AND PRAISE.

- A. ***Judah means praise.***
- B. ***Judah became God's sanctuary.***
 - 1. All Israel is God's domain, but he sets up his sanctuary in Judah.
 - 2. (Psa 114:2 KJV) Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.

III. WHAT IS PRAISE?

- A. ***Praise is preoccupation with who God is and what he has done.***
 - 1. Focuses on God's incomparable character.
 - 2. Focuses on God's wondrous acts on behalf of his children.
- B. ***Praise is extroverted in nature..***
 - 1. Characterized by celebration and exhilaration.
 - 2. Expressed through singing, shouting, speaking forth, playing of musical instruments, dancing, and other external forms.
 - 3. Praise is "raising much to-do about God."
 - 4. 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.

C. ***Praise begins with a mind set upon God, but then those thoughts must be put into action in order to qualify as praise.***

1. Praise is to be declared or manifested. (Psa 66:8 KJV) O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard:
2. Praise is not praise until it is vocalized or shown forth.
3. Praise can be shown forth in the countenance and bodily expression.

IV. WHY WE SHOULD PRAISE THE LORD.

A. ***Commanded.*** (Psa 150:1 KJV) Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

B. ***God is enthroned by our praise.*** (Psa 22:3 KJV) But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

C. ***Praise is our entrance or gate into God's presence.***

1. (Psa 100:2 KJV) Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
2. (Psa 100:4 KJV) Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
3. (Isa 60:18 KJV) ...but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

D. ***There is power in praise (spiritual warfare).***

E. ***It is a good thing to praise the Lord.*** (Psa 92:1 KJV) It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

F. ***He is worthy of our praise.***

1. (Psa 48:1 KJV) Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.
2. (Rev 4:11 KJV) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

V. WHEN SHOULD WE PRAISE THE LORD?

A. ***When you feel like it--***When we are truly impacted with the greatness of God, praise comes easily.

B. ***When you don't feel like it.***

1. Willful choice. Ps 103:1. Praise the Lord O my soul.
2. Offering up sacrifices of praise.
 - a. A sacrifice speaks of something costly; the giving of something that is dear to us.
 - b. A sacrifice is not a sacrifice until it costs us something.
3. The sacrifice of praise.
 - a. (1 Pet 2:5 KJV) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
 - b. (Heb 13:15 KJV) By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks

to his name.

- c. (Psa 116:17 KJV) I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

C. ***Any time is a good time to praise the Lord.***

1. At all times. (Psa 34:1 KJV) A Psalm of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed. I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2. Continually. (Heb 13:15 KJV) By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.
3. At midnight. (Psa 119:62 KJV) At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.
4. Rising up early. (Psa 57:8 KJV) Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.
5. Praise him; praise him. Praise him in the morning; praise him at noontime; praise him; praise him; praise him when the sun goes down.

VI. WHERE SHOULD WE PRAISE THE LORD?

A. ***Everywhere.*** Before all men and nations.

1. (Psa 96:3 KJV) Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.
2. (Psa 40:3 KJV) And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

B. ***In the congregation.***

1. (Psa 22:22 KJV) I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.
2. (Psa 107:32 KJV) Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.
3. (Heb 2:12 KJV) Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

HOW ARE WE TO PRAISE GOD?

A. ***God wants us to praise him with sincerity, incorporating the scriptural forms of praise as a willing sacrifice.***

B. ***Lifting of hands.***

1. (Neh 8:6 KJV) And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.
2. (Psa 63:4 KJV) Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.
3. (Psa 134:2 KJV) Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD.
4. (Psa 141:2 KJV) Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

C. ***Clapping hands.***

1. People. (Psa 47:1 KJV) To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of

Korah. O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

2. Floods. (Psa 98:8 KJV) Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together
3. Mountains and hills. (Isa 55:12 KJV) For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

D. *Playing of musical instruments.*

1. (1 Chr 13:8 KJV) And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.
2. (Psa 150:3 KJV) Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. (Psa 150:4 KJV) Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. (Psa 150:5 KJV) Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

E. *Standing.*

1. No chairs in holy place. Priests continually stood before the Lord as they fulfilled their ministry.
 - a. (2 Chr 7:6 KJV) And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of music 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.
 - b. (2 Chr 29:26 KJV) And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.
2. Standing serves two purposes.
 - a. Speaks of respect.
 - b. Indicates alertness.

F. *Kneeling, bowing, and prostration.*

1. (Psa 95:6 KJV) O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
2. (Rev 4:10 KJV) The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (Rev 4:11 KJV) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.
3. (Rev 19:4 KJV) And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

G. *Singing.*

1. (Psa 100:2 KJV) Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
2. (Psa 126:2 KJV) Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

3. (Eph 5:19 KJV) Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

H. ***Shouting.***

1. (Psa 47:1 KJV) O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
2. In the NIV, joyful noise is translated Shout for Joy to the Lord.
(Psa 95:1 NIV) Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
(Psa 98:4 NIV) Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; (Psa 98:5 NIV) make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, (Psa 98:6 NIV) with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn-- shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
(Psa 100:1 NIV) Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

A. ***Dancing--usually associated with celebration.***

1. Miriam. (Exo 15:20 KJV) And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. (Exo 15:21 KJV) And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.
2. David. (2 Sam 6:14 KJV) And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. (2 Sam 6:15 KJV) So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. (2 Sam 6:16 KJV) And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.
3. Turned our mourning. (Psa 30:11 KJV) Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;
4. Praise in dance. (Psa 149:3 KJV) Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.
5. Leaping. (Acts 3:8 KJV) And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.
6. Value of dancing. Dancing way to release ourselves more fully to love the Lord with all our might and strength.

Notes.

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. It is easier to restrain a fanatic than to raise a corpse.