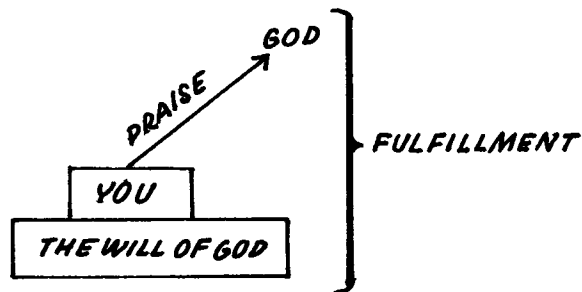


Lesson #8—The Relationship of Praise to the Glory of God

Introduction

- A. There is nothing more important than knowing and doing the will of God.
- B. We have been considering the truth that the will of God finds its highest fulfillment in bringing glory to God. Essentially, this is how we measure our success.
- C. In considering this great subject we often find ourselves asking the question, "How can I glorify God?" While that has been answered to some degree in previous lessons, we now come to a very important facet of the successful Christian's daily life, offering praise to God.
- D. In regard to the glory of God, praise is the honor that we give to Him as we worship Him for Who He is and the adoration and thanksgiving that we express in appreciation for His work and favor.



I. The Biblical Principle, Psalm 50:23.

Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me, and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

Observation: Praise is glorifying to God for many reasons.

1. It is a correct **recognition** of God's worth and His merciful grace in the bestowal of His blessings.
2. It is a **drawing of attention** to the greatness and goodness of God.
3. It is a **giving of due honor** to God.
4. It is a **leading out** in expressions of gratitude, appreciation, and spiritual applause of God's greatness and goodness.
5. It is a **stating of the truth**, a **correct evaluation** of the work of God.

Our failure to praise God is **not just a silence**—it is a loud proclamation which declares something about us.

1. It is a testimony to our **lack of discernment**—that we can witness the merciful and gracious work of God—and be unmoved.
2. It is a testimony to our **lack of appreciation**—that we can witness the merciful and gracious work of God—and not be thankful.

II. The Biblical Illustrations.

- A. The people's response at the dedication of the temple, II Chron. 7:1-3.

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house.

And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.

And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they **bowed themselves** with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and **worshipped**, and **praised the Lord**, saying, **For He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever.**

Observation: The people were surely overwhelmed at this great display of the presence and power of God—but it was also much more than that. The temple and what it stood for was central in the thoughts of the Israelites. When God's signal blessing rested upon this new "house of God" (v2), the people saw it as a **spiritual testimony**.

1. They hereby recognized and praised God for His goodness and mercy in **providing the sacrificial system** which formed the foundation of their acceptance by God. (Exodus 25:8, 22)
2. They understood that all of this was **the fulfillment of the promises** God had made earlier with them. (Exodus 29:44-46; Leviticus 9:6, 23, 24)
3. They perceived that God's blessing upon Solomon's temple was a mighty indication of **His acceptance of Solomon as king and an approval of his reign**. (II Chronicles 7:11-22)
4. They correctly interpreted this as a **reaffirmation that they were the people of God** and that He had accepted and approved of their attempt to honor Him. (Exodus 19:5, 6; II Chronicles 7:14)

(Note how the five points on p. 35 are clearly seen in this event.)

B. Jehoshaphat's response to the threat of war and the promise of God, II Chronicles 20:1-22.

It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle...

And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord....

And Jehoshaphat stood...and said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not Thou God in heaven? and rulest not Thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen?...Art not Thou our God?...O our God, wilt Thou not judge them?...our eyes are upon Thee.

Then upon Jahaziel...came the Spirit of the Lord...Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude, for the battle is not your's, but God's...Ye shall not need to fight in this battle...for the Lord will be with you.

And when he (Jehoshaphat) had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and **that should praise** the beauty of holiness as they went out before the army, and to say, **Praise the Lord**, for His mercy endureth for ever.

And **when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir**, which were come against Judah, and they were smitten.

Observation: This response by Jehoshaphat and the children of Israel was a great testimony.

1. It was **their affirmation of faith to God**. This was the proof that they believed God and totally accepted His promise at face value.
2. It was **their recognition of the greatness of God**. All their actions were based on how great and good God is.
3. It was **their declaration that they were the people of God** and that God would vindicate His promises which He had made to them.

(These great events in the Old Testament are a testimony to us of the greatness of God, His goodness and His faithfulness. They are also a testimony to us of how we should respond, pray, live and honor God.)

GOD IS WORTHY

1. NAME
2. POWER
3. GOSPEL
4. APPEARING

III. The Biblical Explanation.

A. That ordained of God for His praise and honor.

1. God is to be praised for **His glorious name**.

If thou wilt observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest **fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD**. Deut. 28:58

Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and **praise Thy glorious name**. I Chronicles 29:13

The Lord reigneth, let the people tremble. He sitteth between the cherubims, let the earth be moved.

The Lord is great in Zion, and He is high above all the people.
Let them praise Thy great and terrible name, for it is holy. Psalm 99:1-3

Observation: The "name of God" stands for all that He is—all His greatness, goodness, the moral excellence of all His perfections. He has revealed Himself to us so that He would be praised—He is worthy of all such adoration, honor and glory.

2. God is to be praised for **His glorious power**.

Thy right hand, O Lord, is become **glorious in power**, Thy right hand O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. Exodus 15:6

Strengthened with all might, according to **His glorious power**, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness. Colossians 1:11

Observation: The "power of God" speaks of God acting for and within His own. It is a display of His omnipotence. The various attributes of God are seen in His powerful intervention, as well as His will, His approval, His instruction and His judgment.

3. God is to be praised for **His glorious gospel**.

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of **the glorious gospel of Christ**, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them. II Corinthians 4:4

According to **the glorious gospel** of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. I Timothy 1:11

Observation: The gospel is called "glorious" in that its every facet proclaims the greatness and goodness of God. To most of us this is most clear in the evident change the gospel has brought into our lives when we repented and believed the gospel.

4. God is to be praised for **His glorious appearing**.

Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of Hosts shall **reign** in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before His ancients **gloriously**. Isaiah 24:23

Looking for that blessed hope, and **the glorious appearing** of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13

Observation: What an overwhelming thought: Jesus Christ has promised to return. His reign on earth will have implications related to economics, politics, etc. His return will demonstrate His faithfulness, His will for mankind, His goodness, and His power.

5. There are many other areas ordained of God for His praise. The following is a partial list in addition to the four enumerated above.

a. His glorious holiness—Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3

b. His glorious throne—Isaiah 22:23

- c. His glorious voice—Isaiah 30:30
- d. His glorious liberty—Romans 8:21
- e. His glorious church—Ephesians 5:27
- f. His glorious body—Philippians 5:21
- g. His glorious work of the Holy Spirit—II Cor. 3:7, 8

B. How we are to praise and glorify God.

1. We are to praise God for His **protection and guidance**, Genesis 24:27.

And he (Abraham's servant) said, **Blessed be the Lord God** of my master Abraham, Who hath not left destitute my master of His mercy and His truth. I being in the way, **the Lord led me** to the house of my master's brethren.

2. We are to praise God for our **personal deliverance**, Psalm 28:6, 7.

Blessed be the Lord, because **He hath heard the voice of my supplications**.
The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped. Therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth, and with my song will I **praise Him**.

3. We are to praise God for **answered prayer**, Daniel 2:19-23.

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then **Daniel blessed the God of heaven**.

Daniel answered and said, **Blessed be the name of God** for ever and ever, for wisdom and might are His...

I thank Thee and praise Thee, O Thou God of my fathers....

4. We are to praise God for **His loving care**, II Cor. 1:3, 4.

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

5. We are to praise God for **His merciful provision**, Ephesians 1:3.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath **blessed us with all spiritual blessings** in heavenly places in Christ.

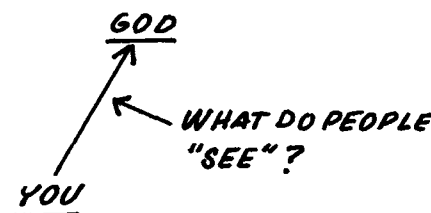
6. We are to praise God for **His mercy in the New Birth**, I Peter 1:3.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy, hath **begotten us again unto a lively (living) hope** by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

IV. The Biblical Exhortation, Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

Observation: This exhortation is stated four times in this Psalm. It is the recommended response to a number of difficult situations in which God revealed Himself and brought deliverance. All of this is presented to us to **remind us of the value and importance of praising God**. We must accept this Biblical injunction and carry it out in our daily life.



Concluding recommendation:

- A. Praise God for Himself—His greatness, His perfections, His goodness.
- B. Praise God for His attributes—He is all powerful, all knowing, everywhere present, He is truth, love and holiness, He is eternal, and in all of this and more, He is infinite and absolute.
- C. Praise God for His names—He is the Lord of Hosts, the God of the whole earth, the Governor of all the nations, the First and the Last, the Faithful Witness, the Everlasting Father, the Author and Finisher of our faith.
- D. Praise God for His creation—
- E. Praise God for His provision—
- F. Praise God for His promises—
- G. Praise God for His protection—
- H. Praise God for His presence—
- I. Praise God for His salvation—
- J. Praise God for His church—
- K. Praise God for His servants—
- L. Praise God for His blessings—