**1] The Power of Praise**

**2] Psalm 150: *Praise the Lord!***

 ***Praise God in his sanctuary;***

***praise him in his mighty heavens!***

 ***2 Praise him for his mighty deeds;***

***praise him according to his excellent greatness!***

 ***3] Praise him with trumpet sound;***

***praise him with lute and harp!***

 ***4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;***

***praise him with strings and pipe!***

 ***5 Praise him with sounding cymbals;***

***praise him with loud clashing cymbals!***

 ***6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!***

 ***Praise the Lord!***

* Where do we Praise Him?
* What do we Praise Him for?
* How do we Praise Him?
* How much should we praise Him?

**4]** Illustration: A man was trying to teach his horse to obey and to stop and start on command.

Praising the Lord is not some kind of casual, meaningless activity. There is power in praise!

This 150th Psalm…the last entry in this most lengthy book. Within Psalms are contained all types of writing.

But to sum it all up…The psalmist says…Praise The Lord!

This is the Hebrew expression…*hallu-yah.* The origin of the often-used exclamation…Hallelujah!

* It communicates not just a knowledge or awareness of God, but an understanding of who He is.

There is something about knowing someone’s name. It is a landmark in a friendship that should not be overlooked. We can have casual conversation with someone, but when you exchange names…there has been a certain familiarity gained.

Praise is not just casual conversation, or obligation or duty. But it should come naturally, because we recognize, and know, who God is. We know from experience, not just because someone told us.

Don’t forget who God is in your life…and don’t forget to call Him by name.

***5] Psalm 91:14: Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.***

***Psalm 9:10: And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.***

People give a lot of superficial praise. A lot of praise, because it makes them look good. It makes them feel good.

We heap a lot of praise on people or things that we know very little about…on here say…on someone else’s recommendation.

It makes our praise weak and not authentic.

I’m afraid too many people let someone else define God for them. Too many let a church define God for them, instead of knowing Him for themselves.

It leads to weak, half-hearted praise.

It’s hard to know if something is real unless you get close enough to tell. So many have never been close enough to God, to know if He is real.

BUT…when you know His Name!

1. Jehovah Nissi (The Lord My Banner)
2. Jehovah Raah (The Lord My Shepherd)
3. Jehovah Rapha (The Lord That Heals)
4. Jehovah Shammah (The Lord Is There)
5. Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness)
6. Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)
7. Jehovah Shalom (The Lord Is Peace)

When you know these names…not just because someone told you, but because you’ve experienced it for yourself.

Let’s get close to God. Let there be no doubt…He is who He says He is. That everything we do, an everywhere we go…we can’t help but to give God praise!

We are far too picky about where we praise God.

***6] Psalm 34:1-3: 1I will bless the Lord at all times;***

***his praise shall continually be in my mouth.***

 ***2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;***

***let the humble hear and be glad.***

 ***3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me,***

***and let us exalt his name together!***

Let praise be continually on our lips. Let blessing flow from our mouths. We spend too much time tearing down things we don’t like, instead of lifting up the One that we say we love.

Don’t waste your breath complaining…but let our words be saturated with Praise!

Praise for what He’s done, and Praise for who He is.

***7] v. 2: Praise him for his mighty deeds;***

***praise him according to his excellent greatness!***

I wonder sometimes, if people know all that God has done for us…or if we’re too busy talking about things that don’t really matter.

Let there be no doubt…let our hearts exclaim:

***8] Psalm 126:3: The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.***

***Luke 1:49: For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.***

You stand out because of your Praise. It distinguishes you from a world full of complaints, and shallow words. Instead of complaining about what hasn’t happened…why not praise Him for all He *has* done, and for the danger He has kept you from.

When it comes to the Lord…we shouldn’t have to search long to find words that exalt Him. He defies description, but at the end of the day…if all you can say is Holy is His name…then just declare that He is Holy!

We worship Him, because of all He’s done…and all that He is.

He is…Not He was, or He might be…HE IS:

* ALIVE
* HOLY
* PRESENT
* JUST
* RIGHTEOUS
* MERCIFUL
* LOVING
* VICTORIOUS

We can go on and on about what has happened, or what we hope will happen, but why not just praise God for who He is right now.

His Excellent Greatness…The abundance of greatness.

He’s not just Great, but He’s GREATER. He’s not just Enough, but He’s MORE THAN ENOUGH.

He’s not just loving…

He's not just gracious…

He’s not just faithful…

He’s not just great enough to handle your problems, but He is GREATER THAN your problems.

There is none like Him…so let us give Him a praise unlike any other.

**9]** Consider all the ways that we praise people.

* Words
* Gifts
* Trips
* Money

We live in a society that over-appreciates mediocrity, and yet ignores greatness.

* We give out awards to the people who complain the most, in hopes that they’ll be quiet…while the best employee gets nothing, because we know they’ll do their job no matter what.

We praise out of obligation…instead of from a sincere heart.

* Well, its Valentine’s Day…I guess I better get some flowers. It’s little nephew Bobby’s birthday, let’s send him an Amazon gift card.

And so often, we don’t do these things out of love, but because we don’t want to face the repercussions if we don’t.

We don’t even really want to, but we shower them with words, with gifts, with trips, with money, with meals…

But then…when it comes to God…

Listen…all He wants is to hear YOUR Praise. You may not feel like you have that much to give, but whatever you have, that’s what He wants.

***10] Hebrews 13:15-16: Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. 16Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.***

Words…I speak from my own mouth. (not going to let a rock cry out for me)

Gifts…whatever you’ve given me, I give back to you.

Trips…I will go where you want me to go. I’ll be faithful to being in God’s house.

Money…I’ll give, so that you can use it to bless others.

Meals…I’ll devote myself to prayer and fasting.

How do we praise Him?

“I just don’t feel comfortable in being that open with my Praise”. “I don’t want to push that on other people, so I hold back a little bit, out of respect”.

Then I go on social media…People don’t hold back in their praise of what they had for dinner last night…How great the concert was…How nice their new outfit is. You didn’t give me a choice, as to whether or not I saw that, but when it comes to the Lord…

If we’re going to hold anything back, let our praise for the Most High God be the last thing on that list.

How do we praise the Lord? With all that we have. We don’t hold back a thing!

***11] v.3-5: 3 Praise him with trumpet sound;***

***praise him with lute and harp!***

 ***4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;***

***praise him with strings and pipe!***

 ***5 Praise him with sounding cymbals;***

***praise him with loud clashing cymbals!***

Trumpet/Shofar: Used for announcements…declarations.

Harp: Songs of praise…Cheerfulness…Joyful

Tambourine and Dance: Songs of Triumph

Cymbals: Accompanied the Ark…Declared the presence of God is here.

Loud Clashing Symbols: Battle Cry

We declare…the King is here.

We declare…the Joy of the Lord is my strength.

We declare…our God is triumphant.

We declare…the presence of God is here.

We declare…If God be for us, who can be against us.

I’m not worshiping for you, but I don’t mind if you see it. I don’t mind if it’s a little too much for you, cause it’s not for you anyways.

You weren’t there…So you might not understand.

So…I’m not going to hold anything back.

‘Til my last breath…***Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!***

Let it be the first thing and the last thing on my lips.

***12] Psalms 146:2: 2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.***

***Psalm 145:2: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.***

***Psalm 63:4: So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.***

He wants an ALL IN praise. Everything we have. Every breath.

A praise that says…without you, I’m empty. Without you I’m broken. Without you I’m lost.

***13] Psalm 63:1-4: 1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;***

***my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,***

***as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.***

 ***2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,***

***beholding your power and glory.***

 ***14] Because your steadfast love is better than life,***

***my lips will praise you.***

 ***4 So I will bless you as long as I live;***

***in your name I will lift up my hands.***

A praise that says, God, you are all I need! You are my supply.