

# *The Power of Praise*



# THE POWER OF PRAISE

KINGDOM SEEKERS INTERNATIONAL

**Dr. Rev. Anthony A. Mathias**

2008

Private Circulation

For Students Only

## **CONTENTS**

LESSON 1:	People of Praise	4
LESSON 2:	People of Power	7
LESSON 3:	Gate Pass	12
LESSON 4:	Worship – An Attitude & Offering	14
	A Final Word	15

## PEOPLE OF PRAISE

### Lesson No.1

Praise means to commend, applaud or magnify. God is pleased when his children praise and worship him. He delights in the love and devotion of his children. He eagerly awaits the fragrance of their affection. He desires to manifest his sweet presence and power in the midst of his children. He seeks true worshippers who will worship him in spirit and truth.<sup>1</sup>

Often praise to God is something that many people leave at church, an event that happens only when they come together with other Christians. Praising God should be the believers lifestyle, anywhere, everywhere and anytime.<sup>2</sup> It brings refreshing, power and anointing with the Lord's presence.

Praise is an expression of faith and a declaration of victory! It declares that we believe God is with us and is in control of the outcome of all circumstances.<sup>3</sup> Praise is *a* sacrifice we offer to God because we believe him and wish to please him.<sup>4</sup> Like God's people of old, when we praise God we proclaim our trust in him and his trustworthiness. We approach him like little children running to their father with arms raised, asking to be lifted and carried by a willing and loving father. We place our security, hope and lives in him.

Praise is an offering.<sup>5</sup> We face many unpleasant events in life. The Bible tells us to praise him constantly and when we do this under such conditions they become our sacrifice.

---

<sup>1</sup> Jn4: 24; <sup>2</sup> Ps34: 1; <sup>3</sup> Rom8: 28; <sup>4</sup> Heb13: 15; <sup>5</sup> Jonah2: 9;

We should praise God because we are commanded to do so. He inhabits our praises. Our praise is our gift to him because he is good and his mercy endures forever.<sup>6</sup> In praise we should lift up our hands with joy and gratitude. God's people are to be a community of praise and worship who function as a royal priesthood.

Praise relates to his greatness. We praise God for who he is – person, character and attributes. Thanksgiving relates to his goodness. We thank God for what he has done in gratitude. Worship relates to his holiness. Worship is an attitude where we as his workmanship bow down and offer ourselves to his Lordship. Israel failed God's call to worship him [so can we] and this resulted in hardness of heart, provoking God's anger, inability to hear his voice and enter his rest.

Praise is expressing *approval* of what we accept or agree. We cannot praise God without being thankful for the thing we are praising him for and we cannot be thankful without being happy about whatever we are thankful for. We must accept the fact that God is responsible for what is happening. Acceptance comes before understanding. To praise God for a difficult situation means to welcome and approve of its happening as part of God's plan for our lives. Praise is the way we relate to God as King on the throne. When we offer him our praises we offer him the throne where he takes his place as king.

Worship is important because God made man to worship him.<sup>7</sup> The Father seeks worshippers. Through worship we commune with God.<sup>8</sup> Worship is the highest honor and veneration [adoration] given to God in thought, word and deed. God is worthy of

---

<sup>6</sup> 1Chr16:28-29; Ps147; Ps150; Ps22:3; 1Pt2:5; Heb13:15; 1Chr16:29; Mt4:10; <sup>7</sup> Exo20:5; <sup>8</sup> Jn4:23-24; <sup>9</sup> Ps29:2; <sup>10</sup> Dan3:5, 46; 2Kings21:3; Rev13:4;

worship.<sup>9</sup> However, people have worshipped idols, images, heavenly bodies and even Satan himself.<sup>10</sup> This brings down curses.

Some Biblical Expressions of Praise.<sup>11</sup>

Giving thanks; Clapping hands and shouting; Musical instruments and dancing; Singing praise songs; Psalms, hymns, & spiritual songs; Making a joyful noise; Lifting our hands; Being still.

1. *How do we make 'Praising God' a lifestyle?* [Select the right one]  
[Lift our hands; Give thanks; Be happy in every situation; Make a sacrificial offering].
2. *God is a Giver and he loves to give gifts to his children. What is the best gift you can give God?* [Select the right one]  
[Obedience, Faith, Thanksgiving-Praise-Worship]
3. *How is Praise and Approval closely linked?*
4. *Why is worship so important to God?*

<sup>11</sup> Heb. 13:15; Ps47:1; 150:4; 9: 11; 98: 4; 134: 2; 4: 3-5; 46: 10; 33: 3; 95: 1-6; Eph. 5:19-20;

## PEOPLE OF POWER

### Lesson No.2

In Acts 16: 23-26, we are told of the unjust arrest of Paul and Silas. Because they had cast a spirit of divination out of a girl, the local Philippians authorities beat them and then threw them into a jail cell. Besides the trauma of severe beating, they were fastened in stocks, which clamped their arms and legs in an immobile position, causing cramps and loss of circulation. The atmosphere was depressing. In that day the prison was more like a dungeon – a dark, damp, stench-ridden place, with no facility for waste or comforts of any kind. Yet despite the throbbing pain in their bodies and the disheartening atmosphere, at midnight Paul and Silas were heard praying and singing praises to God. Then suddenly there was an earthquake that shook the prison. The doors flung open and amazingly the bonds of Paul, Silas and every other prisoner were released. This mighty discharge of power was undoubtedly caused by praise.

Praise elevates us into God's presence and power. Paul knew the secret of how to lift their hearts above their troubles and center into God's presence and power. Through praise and worship, their hearts were raised into the joyous presence and peace of God and provided God a channel for his power to operate in their circumstances.

It is often noticed that power, anointing and 'gifts of the Spirit' operate in a church service subsequent to a time of praise and worship. Lifting up Jesus Christ through praise and worship invokes the Lord's presence and power to flow in our midst. Since praise manifests God's presence, it also repels the presence of the enemy, Satan. He fears the power in the name of Jesus and flees from the Lord's habitation of praise. <sup>1</sup> Praise sends the enemy running.

---

<sup>1</sup> Ps50: 23.

When the children of Judah found themselves outnumbered by the hostile armies of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, King Jehosaphat and all the people sought the Lord's help. The Lord assured the people that this would be his battle. He told them to go out against them, and he would do the fighting for them. So what did the children of Judah do? Being the people of praise [Judah means praise] and knowing that God manifests his power through praise, they sent their army against their enemies, led by the praisers, who declared 'Praise the Lord, for his mercy endureth forever.' And the scripture says, "...when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, which had come against Judah, and they were smitten." [2Chr20: 22].

When God's people begin to praise his name, it sends the enemy running. If you become a person of praise you will experience release of God's power.

There are at least five benefits of praise and worship:

1. His Presence<sup>2</sup>
2. His Power<sup>3</sup> – His power saves, heals and delivers.
3. His Glory<sup>4</sup>
4. His Anointing<sup>5</sup> – His servants are able to minister more effectively
5. His Deliverance<sup>7</sup>

Praise will keep the devil away from you for he hates praise. Praise will lift up your spirit. Thanks and praise will unlock every barred and shut door. It will set every prisoner free. The power of God is always available to set us free and we can tap into that power through praise. Praise is faith in action. The greatest cure known to mankind is praise-cure<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Ps100: 4; <sup>3</sup> Acts16:30-31; <sup>4</sup> 1Kings8:10-11; <sup>5</sup> 2Kings3:15-16; <sup>7</sup> 2Chr20:1-20;

<sup>8</sup> 2Chr20:1-4; 14-19; 20-21

Praise power is available to: To overcome trials and win victories; To get out of depression; To overcome perplexing problems; To have intimacy with God; To be filled with power; To win battles <sup>9</sup> - the battle belongs to the Lord; To bring down walls of hindrances. To have fruit.<sup>10</sup>

A joyful Church is a victorious church. Praise keeps our eyes off circumstances and on to God who performs wonders for us. We praise God because we love him and believe in his ability to do for us what he has promised. We praise him because he keeps his Word. When we stand our ground with God's Word, we demonstrate our faith in God's miracle working power by praising him. Praise should be a way of life. Praise releases your faith in God<sup>12</sup> and brings us in direct contact with him.

When we sincerely accept a situation or condition [however evil] to God believing that he allowed it, thanking & praising him for it, the power of God will change, over-ride, overcome the intention and plan of the evil power inherent in the situation and transforms it to fit in with the original perfect intention and plan of God.

God loves us and has permitted these circumstances because he knows they are good for us. We need to praise him deliberately with our understanding for what he has brought in our lives.

---

<sup>9</sup> Jos6:1-5; <sup>10</sup> Ps67:5-6; <sup>11</sup> 1Tess5:17; <sup>12</sup> Ps117:1-2;

The prayer of praise releases more of God's power than any other form of petition.<sup>13</sup> The paths of God are the paths of praise.<sup>14</sup> Praise has transforming power over our lives. All that happens to us is working for our good.

The attitude of praise releases the power of God in our lives, while the attitude of murmuring blocks the power.<sup>15</sup>

Praise is the purpose of God's blessings.<sup>16</sup> Praise is the way to deliverance, a weapon of spiritual warfare.<sup>17</sup> Praise is a weapon of praying – My tongue is my glory to glorify God.<sup>18</sup>

Examples of power in praise:

Multiplication of loaves and fishes; Raising of the dead [Lazarus]; The battle against Jehosaphat; The release of Paul & Silas [Acts16:25].

\_\_\_\_\_ *caused an earthquake to open the Philippians jail*

*The elevator to God's presence and power \_\_\_\_\_*

*Praise manifests God's presence while \_\_\_\_\_ manifests Satan's presence*

*Name the advantages praising God.*

*Faith without praise is dead [True / False]*

<sup>13</sup> 2Chr20:22-23; Mk6:41-43; Jn11:41; <sup>14</sup> Isa61:1-3; Ps50:13-17; 20-23;

<sup>15</sup>

Phil2:14-16; Ps106:25-26; <sup>16</sup> Col2:15; Ps106:47; <sup>17</sup> Ps50:23; 2Chr20; Ps8:2; Acts16:23-30; <sup>18</sup> Ps30:11-12; Ps16:9; Acts2:26

*In what way is God responsible for everything that happens in our life?*

*Why is a joyful church a victorious church?*

*Being under circumstances is reality; above circumstances is illusion [True / False]*

*What are the power effects of praise?*

---

---

## GATE PASS

### Lesson no.3

The bible says that God inhabits the praises of his people.<sup>1</sup> God dwells in the atmosphere of his praise. Praise is a vehicle of faith that brings us into the presence and power of God. Praise and worship is the “gate-pass” which allows us to enter the sacredness of His glory. The psalmist writes, “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”<sup>2</sup>

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”<sup>3</sup> A “gathering in His name” means that Jesus must be the focus, the center of the assembly. He must be the one preached about, sung about — the one praised and worshiped. “I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”<sup>4</sup> Consequently, Christ’s presence, along with His virtue and anointing, is manifested in this type of gathering.

High praises bring our spirit into a pinnacle [peak] of fellowship and intimacy between God and ourselves — it magnifies our awareness of our spiritual union with him. Praise transports us into the realm of the supernatural and into the power of God. “Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance”<sup>5</sup>

Praise is the way we relate to God as king on the throne. When we offer him our praises we offer him the throne where he takes his place as king. Praise & thanksgiving gives us access to

---

<sup>1</sup> Ps22: 3; <sup>2</sup> Ps100: 4; <sup>3</sup> Matthew 18:20; <sup>4</sup> Hebrews 2:12; <sup>5</sup> Ps89:15;

the throne of God. We enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise and stay between the walls of salvation. <sup>6</sup>

Praise is God's residence.<sup>7</sup> Thanksgiving is the gate pass.<sup>8</sup> It is necessary for successful praying. <sup>9</sup>

---



---

*Another name for 'Praise the Lord?' \_\_\_\_\_*

*What is spirit transport? How do we make use of this system?*

*What is the link between the 'gate pass' and the assembly of God? Why?*

*How do we stay within the walls of salvation? What do walls represent?*

---



---

=

---

<sup>6</sup> Ps22:3; Ps96:6-9; Isa52:1-2; Isa61:10; Ps100:4; Isa60:18; <sup>7</sup> Ps22: 3; Ps100:4-5; <sup>9</sup> Phil4:6-7;

## WORSHIP – AN ATTITUDE & OFFERING

### Lesson No.4

Worship relates to God's holiness. It opens the heart to his love and will for his purpose. It is surrender of self to God. It is an attitude that involves bowing down, prostrating before God in adoration. It is communion, fellowship and direct union with God. <sup>1</sup> E.g. Abraham offering Isaac; Hannah offering Samuel; Mary anointing Jesus with the alabaster box of ointment. Worship is an offering to God of ourselves as tokens of his work and honor. As we fellowship with God we worship him and vice-versa.

The spirit alone can have communion with God. We must worship God in spirit and truth. In spirit means inward attitude, heart condition, with the help of the Holy Spirit. In truth means sincerity, openness, honesty, hiding nothing

Ps95 shows us the gradual progression, thanksgiving then praise and then worship.

Elijah witnesses the wind, earthquake and fire<sup>2</sup> – i.e., noise a prelude [foreword] to worship – then came the sound of gentle stillness – Elijah heard the gentle whisper, covered his face [worship] like the seraphs – then God spoke to him – in hearing God's voice he entered his rest through worship. At the place of stillness and reverence God speaks.

Does our worship please the Lord?

---



---

*Why is wind, earthquake and fire a prelude to worship?*

---



---



---

<sup>1</sup> Jn4:24; 1Cor14:10; Col2:5; Ps95; Ps46:10; Ps63:4; 1Sam1:10; Ezek1:28; Ps134:2; 134:1; <sup>2</sup> 1K19:11-13;

## A FINAL WORD

Even in secular life we need to practice genuine praise of others. Praise is also one of the surest ways of keeping people enthusiastic. People like to feel that someone appreciates the work they do. It's not uncommon therefore to walk through offices and see employees displaying items of praise like a thank-you card from the boss, a special note from a customer, or an award. In that context, sincere recognition can mean a lot more to staff than just financial incentives.

Managers should therefore make an extra effort to utilize this powerful motivational tool in their daily interaction with their employees. From an individual perspective, always look for the positive aspects of people. Make a special effort to recognize and praise good behavior and you'll soon see it being repeated. From a team or department perspective, always compliment your staff on their successes and accomplishments. Tell them when you think they have made progress or done a good job. You can do this one on one or better still, publicly. Doing it 'loudly' increases its significance.

There are three things to remember when giving praise.

- Be sincere. When people deserve praise, give it simply and directly.
- Don't flatter. People can see through flattery as attempts at manipulating them.
- Be simple in your praise. Praise, which is too elaborate, can seem like flattery even when it is sincere. Use basic, simple words like 'well done', or 'you did a great job'.

People have feelings. Everyone wants to be liked, appreciated, and respected. Treated this way, subordinates respond much more favorably and enthusiastically. On the other hand, when criticized often, employees tend to have low morale, which in turn leads to numerous personnel problems. Managers who are able to harness the power of praise will be the managers who will most certainly have high performing subordinates.

The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated. Unfortunately, good work," she added, "is either unnoticed or unappreciated."

Terrific job... Super... Outstanding... Excellent... Well done... These are simple words. Yet, they have a remarkable impact when they are said unexpectedly. It's always a shot in the arm to learn that someone has noticed and cares about what you are doing.

The key to developing people will always be to concentrate on catching them doing something right instead of something wrong. Yet most people are still managed by being basically left alone until they make a mistake that's noticeable and then their boss criticizes them.

Tell people upfront that you are going to let them know how they are doing, even correct them when wrong. Then there are three main things you need to emphasize with praise.

1. Be immediate. Don't save praise for a holiday.
2. Be specific. Just saying to someone, "good job," is nice but it is not very helpful because they do not know specifically what is good so that they could do it again.
3. Share your feelings about their work. Tell people how good you feel about what they did that was right, and how it helps the organization and the other people who work there. Stop for a moment of silence to let them enjoy "feeling" how good you feel. End with a reaffirmation and encourage them to keep up the good work.

Remember to praise progress even if it is only approximately right. Perfect behavior is a journey that happens one step at a time.



## *Tony Mathias*

Dr. Tony Mathias Executive Director and Senior Pastor of Kingdom Seekers International is based in India. He is involved in Teaching, training and mobilizing Christians to live effective and Victorious Christian lives. He conducts Seminars and Workshops On a variety of topics including leadership. He has served as Spiritual Advisor ministering to the Body of Christ Inland as well as Overseas with a vision to spread the Word of God Internationally