

PRAISE THE LORD! Odd that a minister can shout "Praise the Lord" in a church and most of the congregants don't know how to respond.

Psalm 100

There was a preacher that was trying to sell his horse.
A potential buyer came to the church for a test ride.
"before you start" the preacher said, "you should know that this horse only responds to church talk. Go is praise the Lord and stop is amen."
So the man on the horse says "Praise the Lord," and the horse starts to trot. The man again says "Praise the lord," and the horse starts to gallop.
Suddenly there is a cliff right in front of the horse and the man yells "Amen!!!"
The horse stops just at the edge of the cliff.
The man wipes the sweat from his brow and says, "Praise the Lord."

We know what we are to say, we even know how we are to say it, but it has lost its meaning.

Reason we are here this morning is to praise God. (oath of loyalty, affirm faithfulness as servants.)

Why praise God?

a) Almighty **God is worthy** of our praise and worship.

Ps 18:3 *I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised.*

Rev 5:11-12 *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!*

Who God is - Worship

Psalm 99: 1-5

What God has done – Praise

Psalm 98: 1-6

What God has done for you – Thanksgiving

Psalm 103: 1-5

Praise and thanksgiving - is verbalized faith. If you thank God after the fact, that's gratitude. If you thank God before it happens, that's faith.

b) **Worship changes us.**

Jer 2:5 NIV *They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.*

You become like what you worship.

If you worship superficial things, your life becomes superficial.

If you worship perverted things your life becomes perverted.

If you worship evil things your life becomes evil.

If your worship the true God you become godly.

In worship we put God first, we brag about God, we celebrate who He is, we move our focus from ourselves to God .

2 Cor 3:18 TLB *And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him.*

Isa 61:3 *The mantle of praise for the spirit of heaviness.*

c) Praise **defeats our enemy**.

Ps 8:2 NIV *From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.*

Ps 149:5-6 *Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand.*

Our praise puts evil to flight.

How do you praise God?

1. With my voice.

Ps 63:3 *Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You.*

Acts 16:25 *But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. "*

2. With my body.

Ps 63:4 *Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name."*

Ps 95:6 *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*

Greek and Hebrew words for worship literally mean "to bow down or bend the knee."

3. With music.

Ps 97: 4-6 *Tell everyone on this earth to sing happy songs in praise of the Lord. Make music for Him on harps. Play beautiful melodies! Sound the trumpets and horns and celebrate with joyful songs for our Lord and King!*

4. With my emotions.

Ps 47:1 *Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!*

5. With my life.

1 Cor 10:31 *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

If feeling down on a Thursday evening, come to music practice. Exercise, sing, pray. Make conscious choice to praise God because He is the answer to our problems. How do you praise when you don't feel like it? As Nike says "Just do it!" **Psalm 150**