

THE POWER OF PRAISE

Psalms of Summer | A HEART FOR GOD

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Psalms | DEVELOPING A HEART FOR GOD

1. Finding Our Greatest Pleasure in God
2. The Power of Praise
3. Getting Real with God
4. Passion Leads to Action
5. A Lifestyle of Devotion

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAISE GOD?

- A good definition of praise: The joyful thanking and adoring of God, the celebration of his goodness and grace (The NIV Bible).
- Praise is found within the larger context of a life of worship, but specifically describes the way we offer joyful gratitude for who God is and all he has done.

DOES GOD NEED OUR PRAISE?

- God doesn't need anything. He is the self-existing, uncreated Creator of the universe. He doesn't need praise. But he tells us to praise him, because he knows that praise is the full expression of our joy in him. So when God wants us to praise him, he's simply wanting us to enjoy him.
- Praise is really just the outflow of enjoying God. C.S. Lewis said, "All enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise."
- God knows that what we supremely value, we will praise.

THE PURPOSE OF PRAISE | *Why Praise?*

"Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his.

Psalms 100:1-3

PRAISE GIVES US PERSPECTIVE.

- *Praise wraps us in the truth about who God is. God is the Creator.*
- *Praise roots us in the truth about universe. God is in control.*
- *The things that overwhelm us are overwhelmed by the goodness of God.*

WHO SHOULD PRAISE

"Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord! Praise the Lord!"

Psalms 150:6

- Humans breathe, animals breathe, even trees breathe--all of which were created to reflect the beauty and glory of God the Creator!
- The Spirit of God is often translated as "breath."
- The work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify God, not us.

THE PROBLEM OF PRAISE

WHAT KEEPS US FROM PRAISING GOD?

- *DISTRACTIONS*: hurried and busy lives often lead to seeking the praise of others, resulting in having too little energy or focus to praise God.
- *INSECURITIES*: the way we look, sound, and feel in the moment often drowns out our desire to praise God.
- *SIN*: We don't feel worthy enough to praise God.
- *PAIN*: If God allowed this to happen to me, why would I ever praise him?

THE POWER OF PRAISE

"From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!"

Psalms 113:3

"Praise the Lord! I will thank the Lord with all my heart as I meet with his godly people. How amazing are the deeds of the Lord! All who delight in him should ponder them. Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty. His righteousness never fails. He causes us to remember his wonderful works. How gracious and merciful is our Lord!"

Psalms 111:1-4

- **PRAISE** releases God's joy in your life.
- Thank God for being **AMAZING**.
 - When you've experienced the transformation from death to life, you can't bottle that kind of thing inside...praise him!
 - Do you want a life of peace, joy, and influence? Begin thanking God for being thanking God for his amazing grace.
 - Through praise, God gives us a new heart and attitude that will affect those around us.
 - If you praise, you'll live for God. When people see your life, they'll praise God.

PEOPLE OF PRAISE LIVE POWERFUL LIVES.

PURSUE PRAISE THIS WEEK

- *ACTS Daily Prayer*: begin your time adoring and praising him.
- Choose a verse in Psalms each day that praises God for something and text it to a friend.
- Write a psalm of praise to the Lord.