

Series: Devoted  
Title: Devoted Praise  
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Devoted mothers praise their kids for anything! God invites *us* to offer praise to *Him* with our words. Not because He needs it—but because we need it.

What is praise?

To express admiration or approval of the achievements or characteristics of a person or thing.  
Praise: more celebratory, evoking positive emotions and joyful actions that display thanks or gladness towards the one being praised.

Worship: more solemn (serious), humble response to someone or something,

Lament: a deep sorrow or crying out for rescue or help in a time of great need.

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy?  
Let them **sing songs of praise.**” - James 5:13

Old Testament:

The Songs at the Red Sea – Exodus 15:1–18 Moses and Miriam

The Song of Moses – Deuteronomy 32:1–43 Moses recounting God’s faithfulness

The Song of Deborah and Barak – Judges 5

Hannah’s Prayer – 1 Samuel 2:1–10

David’s Song of Praise – 2 Samuel 22

Hezekiah’s Prayer Song – Isaiah 38:10–20

Habakkuk’s Prayer Song – Habakkuk 3

Nebuchadnezzar’s Song of Praise – Daniel 2:20–23

And there is an entire book of praise/lament/and worship songs in the book called PSALMS.

New Testament:

Mary’s Song - The Magnificat – Luke 1:46–55

Zechariah’s Song – Luke 1:68–79

Glory to God in the Highest (Angels’ Song) – Luke 2:14

Simeon’s Song – Luke 2:29–32

Paul and Silas in Prison – Acts 16:25

Heavenly Worship Songs – Revelation 4:8–11; 5:9–14; 7:10–12; 15:3–4

So what do people praise God about?

Creation -

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” *Revelation 4:11*

“Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. ....when I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ...Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! - *Psalms 8:3–4*

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." *Psalm 139:14*

### **Deliverance** -

"...you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit... But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you..." - *Jonah 2:6b-7, 9:*

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer... I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and have been saved from my enemies." - *2 Samuel 22:2,4*

### **Sovereignty** -

"For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne." - *Psalm 47:7-8*

*King Nebuchadnezzar after repenting* - "His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation." - *Daniel 4:34*

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns." - *Revelation 19:6*

### **Redemption** - restoring, perfecting, bringing back.

(Zechariah's Song) "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them..." - *Luke 1:68-69*

"Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem." - *Isaiah 52:9*

### **Judgment** -

"let them sing to the Lord because he is coming to judge the earth." - *Psalm 98:4*

"The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity." *Psalm 9:7-8*

### **God's Law** -

*Psalm 119* - longest Psalm - all about the law!

"The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold." - *Psalm 119:72*

"The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple... The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes." - *Psalm 19:7-8*

### **God's characteristics:**

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." - *Psalm 103:8*

### **When/Where should I praise?**

"I will bless the Lord at all times! His praise shall continually be on my lips!" - *Psalm 34:1*

"From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised." - *Psalm 113:3*

WHERE? "In the midst of the congregation I will praise you." - *Psalm 22:22*

"Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens." - *Psalm 150:1*

Where is the temple of the Lord under the New Covenant?

The temple is now within the believer and the gathered believers.

"Do you not know that you(the church) are God's temple, and that God's Spirit dwells in you(the church)?" - 1 Corinthians 3:16

"For we are the temple of the living God, as God said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and they will be my people, and I will be their God.'

- 2 Corinthians 6:16

"you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house

...that you may **declare the praises of him** who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." - 1 Peter 2:5,9

How do you praise God?

**Expressions:** "Declare his glory among the nations..." - 1 Chronicles 16:24

"Shout for joy to God, all the earth!" - Psalm 66:1

"Sing to the Lord, all the earth." - Psalm 96:1

"Let them praise his name with dancing..." - Psalm 149:3

"I will lift up my hands in your name." - Psalm 63:4

"Clap your hands, all you nations..." - Psalm 47:1

"Praise him with trumpet sound... harp and lyre... loud cymbals... tambourine and dancing..." - Psalm 150:3-5

"I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, my God; I will sing praise to you with the lyre, Holy One of Israel." - Psalm 71:22

"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." - Matthew 5:8

What you take delight in, you will WANT to share with someone else.

Our ultimate joy in praise comes from glorifying or expressing that joy to others.

Catechism: What is the chief aim of mankind? "to glorify God and enjoy him forever."

Psalm 63:5-6: "I will be **fully satisfied** as with the richest of foods;

with singing lips my mouth will **praise you**. On my bed I remember you;

I think of you through the watches of the night."

"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?"

Psalm 42, 43.

3 My tears have been my food day and night,

while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

4 These things I remember as I pour out my soul:

how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One

with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.

5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a **sacrifice of praise**—the fruit of lips that **openly profess his name**." - Hebrews 13:15

Acts 16: 22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." - Colossians 3:16

Acts 16:26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

Isaiah 61:3 "and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a **garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.**

Psalms 40: I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire;

he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

"Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord; may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.

They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.

Be pleased to save me, Lord; come quickly, Lord, to help me. - *Psalms 40:11-13*

Job: The Lord gave and the Lord took away... blessed be the name of the Lord.'

Psalms 23:

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

1. Do you know the One who can bring you praise in spite of your circumstances?
2. Are you delighting in lesser things?
3. Are you struggling to praise? Are you downcast in your soul? Jesus is the answer.

Devoted Praise.