



The Power of Praise

Choosing Our Words

I. Choosing Our Words

James 3:2-10 (NIV[®])

² We all stumble in many ways. **If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man**, able to keep his whole body in check . . . ⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, ⁸ but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

Proverbs 18:21 (NIV[®])

²¹ The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 13:3 (NIV[®])

³ He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.

II. Benefits of Offering Praise

A. Through praise we acknowledge God's greatness

Psalms 33:1 (NIV[®])

¹ Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

Psalms 63:4-5 (NIV[®])

⁴ I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. ⁵ My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

B. Praise prepares us for God's deliverance

Psalms 50:23 (NIV[®])

²³ He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and **he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.**"

C. Praise dislodges despair

Isaiah 61:2-3 (NIV[®])

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and **a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair**. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

D. Praise & Thanksgiving as a sacrifice

Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV[®])

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Jeremiah 33:10-11 (NIV®)

¹⁰ "This is what the LORD says: 'You say about this place, "It is a desolate waste, without men or animals." Yet in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, inhabited by neither men nor animals, there will be heard once more ¹¹ the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and **the voices of those who bring thank offerings** to the house of the LORD, **saying, "Give thanks to the LORD Almighty, for the LORD is good; his love endures forever."** For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before,' says the LORD.

E. Praise Silences the Enemy

Psalm 8:2 (NIV®)

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

F. Thanksgiving & Praise prepare a way for God's involvement

Jonah 2:1-2, 9-10 (NIV®)

¹ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ² He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ---⁹ **But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you.** What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD." ¹⁰ And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

2 Chronicles 20:20-22 (NIV®)

²⁰ Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."

²¹ **After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."**

²² As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

Acts 16:22-26 (NIV®)

²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten.

²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ **About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,** and the other prisoners were listening to them.

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 everybody's chains came loose.

Prayer

Let the praises of God fill the earth. Let all the people rejoice in the grace and mercy of Almighty God. Let the name of Jesus be exalted. Almighty God You have transformed my life, rescuing me from the dominion of darkness and establishing me in Your glorious Kingdom. Nothing is too hard for You. You have created all things, Your purposes will be accomplished. I lift up my voice in praise and thanksgiving to the Holy One of Israel, amen.

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