

Praising God as Spiritual Warfare

Praising and worshiping God in church services is common in the church of Jesus Christ. Individuals gather together and sing songs of praise and worship, sometimes with great energy and other times in a more solemn tone. It is all supposed to be directed to Him, but sometimes is just sung like people singing a popular song together. But if praise and worship is to be used as spiritual warfare against Satan and His demons, it must be directed to God with a fervent expectation that God will intervene and do something miraculous. Do you want to prepare to do this when the congregation gathers together? Then practice it every morning as you have your devotions and prayer time. Don't just make it a habit, but really bring heartfelt praise to God through your singing. Then, when you and your congregation come together, all the voices can be joined together in unity and directed toward Him.

So what is praise? We praise people for their good works, and God's good works are so much greater than anything a person has done. We can adore Him and worship Him because of who He is and what He has done. If you don't know much about Him, dig into the Word to see all the things that He has done to be a blessing to His people and a just judge to all who walk in this world. Praise Him for His goodness, His love, His character, His mercy, His power, His omniscience, His omnipresence, His justice, His joy, His peace, His patience, His kindness, His gentleness, His faithfulness and His self-control in dealing with His creation. Tell Him that for all these things and for loving us before we loved Him that He is worthy of praise, honor, glory and power. And, on top of all of that, thank Him for who He is and what He has done. Give specific examples as you thank Him for life and events in it. There are all kinds of ways to praise Him, be it spoken word, singing music, lifting up hands, bowing, taking a knee or even lying prostrate before Him. The point is not the form of the praise and worship, but the heart's intent in coming into His presence with thanksgiving in our hearts and praise upon our lips.

If you can't think of reasons to praise Him, consider these passages from scripture.

1. ***Praise is the natural result of being in the presence of God.*** Job, after the LORD appeared to him, praised Him in Job 42:1-6. Solomon praised Him when the temple was dedicated and God's presence filled it like a cloud, so that they all had to stop and just worship the LORD, 1 Kings 8:12-53. Isaiah witnessed the Seraphim praising the LORD as He sat on His throne, Isaiah 6:1-5. John witnessed the elders around the LORD's throne praising Him, Revelation 4:8-11.
2. ***God lives in the praises of His people.*** Psalm 22:3, *Yet Thou are holy, O thou who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.* Zephaniah 3:17, *The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing.*
3. ***Therefore, praising Him gives us access into His presence.*** Psalm 100:4, *Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise, Give thanks to Him; bless his name.* Psalm 134:1-2, *Behold, bless the LORD, all servants of the LORD! Lift up your hands to the sanctuary, And bless the LORD.*
4. ***Mankind was created to praise God.*** Isaiah 43:21, *The people whom I have formed for Myself, Will declare My praise.* Ephesians 1:4b-6, *In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

5. **God's people are born again for praise.** Psalm 102:18, *This will be written for the generation to come; That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.* 1 Peter 2:9, *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*
6. **God delights in the praises of His people.** Psalm 149:1,3-4, *Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise in the assembly of the saints ... Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.*
7. **God is worthy to receive praises.** Revelation 4:11, *You are worthy, O LORD, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.* Psalm 29:1-2, *Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD that glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*
8. **God commands it in the Scriptures.** Psalm 34:1,3, *I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Oh magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.*
9. **Jesus gives us instruction to praise Him in the Lord's Prayer.** Matthew 6:9, *Our Father in heaven, Hallowed by thy name.*
10. **Praise is the God-given garment in exchange for a spirit of heaviness.** Isaiah 61:3, ...*The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...*
11. **Praise given results in faith.** Romans 4:20-21, *He (Abraham) did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

The power of God is released against His enemies when His people praise Him. In spiritual warfare, praising God is a weapon that can be used to bring victory or deliverance. Praise in unison by many intercessors moving by God's command brings victory or deliverance. Here are three examples:

1. Joshua 5:14-15 through 6:2. *So He (Jesus, preexistent Christ) said, "No but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said to Joshua; "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor."*
2. Judges 7:15. *And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand."*
3. 2 Chronicles 20:21-22. *And when he had consulted with the people, he (Jehoshaphat the king) appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever." Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.*

Always be prepared to praise the Lord, no matter how dire the circumstances may seem; for you are on His mission and doing His bidding.