

A Believer's Most Powerful Weapon

AND HOW TO USE IT

Praise has been winning wars throughout the ages!

Praise focuses on who He is, His attributes, His name, or His character.

The phrase “Praise the Lord” is found 82 times in the Bible.

- Psalm 113:1 – Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord
- Psalm 117:1 – Praise the Lord, all nations; Laud Him, all peoples!
- Psalm 135:3 – Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is lovely.

We begin with praise because it is the pattern Jesus set forth in Scripture.

- “Father, Holy is Your name” (in the Lord’s Prayer).
- Psalm 100:4-5 “Enter His gates with thanksgiving *and* His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations.”
 - Repeated twice in verse 4. Praise Him; bless His name.
 - Spiritual Warfare 101- the name of Jesus

The Power of Praise:

- We are kept by His name. It is when we live in the name that we know that His love is manifest in us.
 - **John 17:6, 11-12, 26** – “I have **manifested Your name** to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father **keep them in Your name**, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them, **I was keeping them in Your name** which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

And I have **made Your name known to them**, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

- Spiritual victories are won.
 - **2 Chronicles 20:21-22** – “When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised *Him* in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, “Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.” When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so, they were routed.
- Prison doors are open.
 - **Acts 16:25-26** – “But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains were unfastened.”
- The future of people and nations changes! Let the celebration, the exaltation of (high) praise begin!
 - **Psalms 149:6-9** – “Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written; This is an honor for all His godly ones. Praise the LORD!”

Example of praising God’s ability in one accord from the Scripture:

2 Corinthians 9:8 – “And God is able to make *all grace abound* to you, so that *always* having *all sufficiency* in everything, you may have an *abundance* for every good deed.”

- Person 1: We praise you for your ability
- Person 2: We love the word “abound”
- Person 3: We praise you that because of who you are, we have an abundance
- Person 4: Yes, because of you we have all sufficiency in everything!

Praise sets our eyes on the Problem-Solver rather than the problem.

- As we praise God, we can sense our burdens growing smaller as He is growing bigger. Praise stirs up our faith! When we remind ourselves of who He is and what He can do we can find ourselves saying, “Wait a second, what am I worrying about!”
- “Praise is the life-long treasure-finding journey of getting to knowing your God!”
We desire to live in the name that we know! – *Fern Nichols*

Why Praise Together

- Psalms 113 was written to commemorate one of the greatest deliverances of all time, the exodus of God's people out of Egypt through the crossing of the Red Sea. Psalm 113:1 "Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!"
- The word praise is the word "halal" in the Hebrew.
 - Strong's concordance defines it "to flash forth light" on God. One author defined it as "shining a spotlight on Him".
 - Strong's second definition is "to boast". To praise is to make our boast in God.
- The Lord in "Praise the Lord" translates as "Jah", the shortened form of Jehovah, the proper name of the one true God.
- Additional references – 2 Samuel 22:4, 1 Chronicles 23:30, Psalm 22:22-23, Psalm 94:7,12, Psalm 104: 35, Ps.105:44-45, Ps. 106:1,48, Ps. 111:1, Psalm 112:1, Psalm 113:1,9, etc.
- "Praise the Lord in the Psalms comes always at the beginning or end of the Psalm. It's a call to worship. It's a benediction. It's an exclamation point. And it's the celebration in our corporate worship." – *Nancy Leigh DeMoss*
- It's almost always used as a command. It's to be as one commentator said our "persistent, perpetual activity." It's often accompanied by singing.
- "The verb "halal" is used not in a singular form. It's in the plural form. All are to join in praising the Lord. It's an 'all y'all' Praise the Lord!" – *Nancy Leigh DeMoss*
- "Halal" and "Jah" are used 4 times in the NT as **Hallelujah!** Hallelujah is a word known worldwide among believers. These uses are at the end of the Bible, and they are spoken by a great multitude in heaven. They point to the ultimate deliverance for His people.
 - "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God! For his judgments are true and just." – Rev. 19:1
 - "And a second time they said, 'Hallelujah'." – Rev.19:2
 - "And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, ' Amen. Hallelujah!'" – Rev. 19:4
 - "Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.'" – Rev.19:6