

HALLEL JAH—PRAISE THE LORD!

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1).

KEY POINTS

- ❖ What is praise? Praise, as defined by *A Dictionary of the Bible* (Hendrickson Publishers) is an “act of homage or worship offered to God by His creatures, particularly by man.” It is to “break out in a cry, especially of joy.”
- ❖ The well-known word “Hallelujah!” captures this thought as we cry out: “Praise Jehovah!”
- ❖ Originally, this outburst, this ‘Hallel’ was not just in times of joy, but often in times of fear, or grief, or great sacrifice. The ancients felt that a loud noise or shout would drive out evil spirits and bad influences.
- ❖ As time went by, ‘hallel’ became very much intertwined with ‘Jah’ and praise to God is now expressed worldwide by the word “Hallelujah.”
- ❖ When we look at the Psalms, the songbook of Israel, many of them begin or end with Hallelujah, often expressed in English as “Praise the Lord,” or “Bless the Lord.”
- ❖ Psalm 103 is one of many majestic anthems of praise David wrote and sang. As we go through the Psalms, we see that David has a big lesson for us when it comes to praise: we must *always* be in praise mode to God, whether in good times or in bad.
- ❖ Psalm 34 is another example of what he had to say as he was coming out of a time of great peril and fear for his life.
- ❖ The introduction to this psalm describes it as “*A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed.*”
- ❖ We thank God for His deliverance from trouble, but how do we praise Him in the *middle* of trouble?
- ❖ As David was fleeing from his son Absalom who was in the process of usurping his throne, he penned Psalm 3.
- ❖ In the midst of his troubles and trials, David took time to acknowledge, praise and worship God. As we read the psalm, notice that the word “Selah” is recorded three times.
- ❖ Our best speculation is that Selah is a musical term that indicates we should pause and reflect on what has just been sung. In other words, our praise to God (especially in time of trouble) isn’t just a hastily offered word, but something we deliberately think through and deliver to God as our sacrifice of praise.
- ❖ As the writer to the Hebrews states: “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name” (13:15).
- ❖ Right there in the middle of your situation, your emotional pain, your fear, your loss, your personal disaster, your poverty, your sickness, your confusion, your hopelessness—open your mouth and begin to Hallel Jah. Begin to Praise the Lord!

KEY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 103; Psalm 34:1-8; Psalm 3; Hebrews 13:15; Revelation 4:8b, 11

- ❖ That’s what we read in Psalm 34: “I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth” (v. 1).
- ❖ Back in 2005, Pastor William Murphy of the dReam Center Church in Atlanta wrote a song that has gone around the world and back many times. One of the verses says:
 Praise is what I do
 Even when I’m going through
 I’ve learned to worship You
 No my circumstance
 Doesn’t even stand a chance
 My praise outweighs the bad
- ❖ Praise is what we do! Praise should be the first response of every child of God in every situation. Praise is who we are! Everything about us, every word and every action, ought to be a praise to God.
- ❖ Now, let’s think. What is our connection with God? How do we feel about *Him*? Do we identify with Him as *our* God and feel a deep, emotional heart connection with Him? Do we look at the things He does and feel a deep sense of pride in the fact that He is *our* God and our Father? Needless to say, it is really important to bond with Him in this way.
- ❖ And at the very same time we realize that our praise response to God isn’t simply based on emotion. God is worthy of our praise no matter what!
- ❖ The four living creatures of Revelation 4 never rest from saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come (v. 8).
- ❖ And the 24 elders follow their lead, casting their crowns before the One who sits on the throne and saying (Rev. 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.”
- ❖ Let’s take our own praise break right now and sing to our God.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What is the “greatest hit” of the soundtrack of your life—the one thing you cannot stop glorifying God for? (Salvation, healing, etc.)
2. Hallel jah—praise the Lord! Take time to offer up the sacrifice of praise to God.

PRAYER TIME

Lord, You have been so very good to me. “More than this world could ever be. I can’t complain.” In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Start-up: What is one of your go-to worship songs when the seas of life get a little bit rough?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🤔 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

**Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline**

PRAYER FOCUS: Foreign missionaries: anointing to preach the gospel, anointing to lead and empower national workers, family unity, personal protection



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

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PRAISE IS WHAT I DO

Praise is what I do
When I wanna be close to You
I lift my hands in praise
Praise is who I am
I will praise You while I can
I'll bless You at all times

I vow to praise You
Through the good and the bad
I'll praise You
Whether happy or sad
I'll praise You
In all that I go through
Because praise is what I do
'Cause I owe it all to You

Praise is what I do
Even when I'm going through
I've learned to worship You
No my circumstance
Doesn't even stand a chance
My praise outweighs the bad

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study
SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE
SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast
MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on Zoom, Facebook, YouTube
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MAY 2, 2021

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

"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."

Revelation 4:11 NKJV

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