



## Psalms for Life

### **Sermon: Praise the Lord** (Psalm 113)

**Summary:** Athanasius, 4th Century defender of the orthodox Christian Faith said, "Most of the Scriptures speak to us, while the Psalms speak for us." The church has long understood that the Psalms are our prayer book, our primer in learning how to pray, and our source of appropriate words and emotions for every human situation. Psalm 113 is one of the "Hallelujah Psalms" so it literally begins and ends with the words "Hallel Yah," from which we get the word, "Hallelujah" which means "Praise the LORD." Through Psalm 113, God's people are instructed to speak words of praise to Him because of who He is and in experience of need. Internalizing and expressing the words of Psalm 113 can help provide the perspective we need to grow into we sincerely voicing praise to God.

#### - Praise the Lord!

*"Praise the Lord! Yes, give praise, O servants of the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord!"* **Psalm 113:1 NLT**

#### - Praise the Lord as His Servant.

*"Praise the Lord! Yes, give praise, O servants of the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord!"* **Psalm 113:1 NLT**

*"Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* **Mark 10:45 NIV**

#### - Praise the NAME of the Lord.

### **Psalm 113:1-2 NLT**

1 **Praise** the Lord!

Yes, give **praise**, O servants of the Lord.

**Praise** the name of the Lord!

2 Blessed be the **name** of the Lord

Now and forever.

- The name of the Lord is a Biblical expression for the whole character of God. The name of the Lord refers to God's person and character. The Lord is our rock, our refuge, our fortress, our shepherd, our king, and our redeemer.

### **Proverbs 18:10 NLT**

The name of the Lord is a strong fortress;  
the godly run to him and are safe.

**Praise the Lord** Everywhere.

### **Psalm 113:3&4 NLT**

3 Everywhere—from east to west—

Praise the name of the Lord.

4 For the Lord is high above the nations;

His glory is higher than the heavens.

**Praise the Lord** Who Reaches Down.

### **Psalm 113:5&6 NLT**

5 Who can be compared with the Lord our God,

Who is enthroned on high?

6 He stoops to look down

On heaven and on earth.

### Philippians 2 5-8 NLT

5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

6 Though he was God,  
he did not think of equality with God  
as something to cling to.

7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;  
he took the humble position of a slave  
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,

8 He humbled himself in obedience to God  
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

## Praise the Lord Who Lifts Up.

### **Psalm 113:7&8 NLT**

7 He lifts the poor from the dust  
and the needy from the garbage dump.

6 *He sets them among princes,  
Even the princes of his own people!*

When You are Down and You Praise the Lord, You are Telling  
Him, "I Trust You!"

### **Psalm 112:7 NLT**

The righteous man does not fear bad news, nor live in dread of what  
might happen. For he is settled in his mind that God will take care of him.

### **Psalm 27:3 NLT**

Even if a whole army surrounds me, I will not be afraid! And even if  
enemies attack me from all sides, I will still trust God!

Life is a **struggle** - praise the Lord in the Pain!

### **Psalms 113:9 NLT**

He gives the childless woman a family,  
making her a happy mother.  
Praise the Lord!

### Romans 5:3-4 NLT

3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know  
that they help us develop endurance.

4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character  
strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

## Life Application Study Guide

1. How do you engage in praise?
2. In his book *Reflections on the Psalms*, C.S. Lewis wrote, “I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment.” Is your expression of praise to God a “completion of your enjoyment” of Him? Explain.
3. We are instructed in Psalm 113:3 to “praise the name of the Lord.” The “name of Lord” is a Biblical expression for God’s whole character. List some of God’s character traits that draw you into praise. Spend time praising God because of who He is.
4. How can the regular practice of praise develop Christ-like character in you?
5. How can genuinely and authentically praising the name of the Lord be an antidote to criticism, negativity, and grumbling?
6. These questions remind us that Praise requires time and intentionality. How can you more consistently engage in the biblically mandated and sanctioned practice of “praising the Lord?”