

# There's Power in Praise

Psalm 100 | Hope City Church

---

## CENTRAL QUESTION

***Will you praise God before the battle is over?***

---

### I. What Real Praise Actually Is

**Key Text:** *Psalm 100:1-5*

**Hebrew Word:** Tehillah — not just singing words from a page, but a spontaneous, heartfelt song that flows from the heart as you encounter God's presence.

- There's a difference between singing lyrics and singing from your heart
- God puts songs in us. But we have to let them out.
- David's songs came from caves, battlefields, and the wilderness — not comfortable moments

### II. Praise Flows From Relationship

**Key Text:** *Psalm 34:1* — “I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

- David didn't wait until things were perfect
- He praised in trouble, in victory, and in the waiting
- People who know God for who He is tend to praise Him most
- When you've experienced His mercy, praise rises naturally

### III. Praise Is Not Dependent on Circumstances

**Key Texts:** *Habakkuk 3:17-18* | *Psalm 34:1*

*“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, yet I will rejoice in the Lord.”*

- Praise is not a feeling. It's a choice.
- Anyone can praise after a miracle. The question is: can you praise before it?
- Can you praise while you're still sick? While the family problems aren't resolved? While the promise hasn't come yet?
- That's where real praise is found.

### IV. God Inhabits Praise

**Key Text:** *Psalm 22:3* — “Thou inhabitest the praises of Israel.”

Inhabit: to dwell, to rest upon, to abide.

- When we praise, God shows up

- Praise doesn't just change the atmosphere. It makes us aware we're standing in the presence of a holy God.
- Fear leaves. Faith grows. Chains loosen. Hearts change.

## V. Praise Is a Weapon

**Key Texts:** 2 Chronicles 20:21-22 | Acts 16:25-26

### Jehoshaphat

- Four armies came against Judah
- God's instruction: put the praisers out front
- When they started singing, the enemies turned on each other
- Praise turned the battle before a single sword was raised

### Paul and Silas

- Thrown into the deepest part of the prison for doing the will of God
- Midnight. Chains. Darkness.
- They prayed and sang praises
- Suddenly — earthquake. Foundations shook. Every door opened. Every chain fell off.
- Praise opened the prison.

## VI. Praise Prepares Us for Eternity

**Key Text:** Revelation 4:8 | Philippians 4:4

- Revelation shows heaven filled with praise around the throne
- What we do here is practice for where we're going
- One day the struggle ends. Every tear wiped away. The Lord Himself with us.
- We'll praise Him throughout eternity.

---

### Closing Challenge

*Don't wait till the battle is over. Don't wait till the victory is won. Whatever God has promised — it's already done. Shout now.*

---

### FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. Is your praise tied to your circumstances? What would it look like to praise God before the answer comes?
2. David's songs came out of his hardest seasons. What season are you in right now, and what would it mean to praise God in it?
3. Jehoshaphat put the praisers out front. What would it look like to lead with praise in a situation you're facing?

4. Paul and Silas praised at midnight. What is your “midnight,” and what’s keeping you from singing in it?

5. If praise prepares us for eternity, how seriously are we taking it in our daily lives?

---

Scripture References: Psalm 100:1-5 | Psalm 34:1 | Habakkuk 3:17-18 | Psalm 22:3 | 2 Chronicles 20:21-22 | Acts 16:25-26 | Philippians 4:4 | Revelation 4:8