

Wednesday, March 1, 2023
LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY
RETURNING TO PRAISE
Matthew 6:9-13

Tonight, we finish our series entitled “Lord, Teach us to Pray”. In this teaching, we have discovered Jesus’ method of prayer and intimacy with His Father. Jesus gave His disciples six powerful prayer points to focus on each time they communed with their Father in heaven. By praying over these six areas, the disciples were able to establish the will of God over every area essential to their success as believers.

Jesus taught His disciples to begin and, now to end their communication with the Father in praise. The Lord’s Prayer begins and ends in praise. Praise is the language of faith. It affirms our belief in the reality of God’s power and presence. God’s people are, first and foremost a people of praise. You can’t live in the true presence of God and not praise Him. If you survey praise in the Bible, you find that we are to praise God in three primary ways: with our mouths, through our bodily movements, and through the playing and singing of music. Praise and worship of God is not a recent phenomenon. It didn’t begin in the charismatic movement. We have deep roots of praise that go back thousands of years. Studying the words translated as “praise” in the Bible help us to know: Why do we praise as we do? Well, here’s a picture of what the Bible describes as “praise”.

- 1. Hallal – to be vigorously excited; to laud, boast, rave, to celebrate.*
- 2. Barak – to bless, to declare God the origin of power for success, prosperity and fertility; to be still.*
- 3. Shabach – to commend, address in a loud tone, to shout.*
- 4. Todah – to extend the hands in thanksgiving.*
- 5. Yadah – to worship with extended hands, to throw out the hands, enjoying God.*
- 6. Zamar – to pluck the strings of an instrument; to praise with song.*
- 7. Tehillah – to sing in the Spirit or to sing psalms.*

Praise is not like putting a coin into a machine to ensure our petitions are granted but it is an actual participation in the Kingdom we are entreating! God has called His people to be participants in His kingdom, His power, and His glory!

The Kingdom

The same Bible which states “For the kingdom is the Lord’s” (Psalm 22:28) also says, “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)

“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” (Colossians 1:12)

The Power

David wrote, “In thy hand is power and might.” (1 Chronicles 29:12) “Be exalted, Lord, in your own strength: so will we sing and praise your power.” (Psalm 21:12) The power is the Lord’s. Yet, He has made us participants in His power.

“Behold, I give to you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means harm you.” (Luke 10:19) The word “harm” here means “Nothing will act in a manner contrary to what is divinely approved.” “You shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) “The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.” (1 Corinthians 4:20)

The Glory

“I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to idols.” (Isaiah 42:8) “Glory and honor are in His presence.” (1 Chronicles 16:27) “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Your Name give glory.” (Psalm 115:1)

Yet, the Scriptures say:

- Jesus brought many sons to glory by His resurrection. (Hebrews 2:9)
- If we suffer with Him, we will be glorified with Him. (Romans 8:17)
- We are changed into His glory as we behold Him. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- God has called us into His eternal glory. (1 Peter 5:10)

So, while we are giving the only One who is worthy praise and honor; the only One who alone dwells in unapproachable Light – we glorify His holy Name – while we praise Him, we are participating in His kingdom, power,

and glory by the love and kindness of our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!
So, we as we draw near to the close of our time of communion, we go out with great confidence, joy, and excitement; knowing that our God, who is the Beginning and the End has all things under control.

Today's Scriptures:

- Matthew 6:9-13
- Psalm 22:28
- Luke 12:32
- Colossians 1:12
- 1 Chronicles 29:12
- Psalm 21:12
- Luke 10:19
- Acts 1:8
- 1 Corinthians 4:20
- Isaiah 42:8
- 1 Chronicles 16:27
- Psalm 115:1