

THE PRAISE AFFECT

Living a life of praise is not only the most enjoyable way to live,

but it is also one of the most powerful ways to change your life and the lives around you.

Praise isn't like the caboose that just **follows** what happens; it's more like the engine of a train that **makes** things happen.

Your faith isn't complete without praise.

Colossians 2:7 AMP

*7 having been deeply rooted [in Him]
and now being continually built up in Him and
[becoming increasingly more] established in your
faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing in
it with gratitude.*

Colossians is saying that you abound in faith with thanksgiving and gratitude.

No **thanksgiving** equals not abounding in **faith**.

Praise affects you, it affects the devil, and it affects God.

PRAISE touches everything and every part of your life!

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A lack of **praise affects** you in a negative way, turns the devil loose in your life, and doesn't bless God.

You have to get this area of your life right.

Nearly everyone agrees that praise is good, but very few feel any responsibility to praise God when they don't feel like it.

I don't know anyone who wakes up in the morning and plans on being depressed.

I genuinely believe that we all want to be happy.

I believe, that people don't feel they have control or authority over praise.

They think that praise is just a response to what happens and that if everything goes right, they will automatically do it.

That is definitely not the case.

The Lord told His disciples the night before His crucifixion not to let their hearts be troubled (*John 14:1*).

This wasn't a suggestion!

It was a command!

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Most Christians today would think this was insensitive and unreasonable.

They would say that Jesus wasn't being understanding and compassionate.

These disciples were about to see Jesus arrested and then flee in fear for their lives.

They would see Jesus unjustly condemned and then crucified and buried.

And He was telling them not to let their hearts be troubled!

I don't know about you but, that sounds unreasonable.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; (Take Cheer) I have overcome the world."

So Jesus ended His teaching to His disciples that evening with a promise that they would have trouble Wow!

What an understatement!

He said to be of **take courage**.

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How was this possible?

He said it was possible because
He *had* overcome the world.

At the time Jesus said that, He hadn't been
crucified,

He had not been resurrected and seated at the
Father's right hand.

It was because of **faith** that the disciples were
supposed to **rejoice**. (*Rejoice in the Lord always
and again I say rejoice*)

He had promised that He would be resurrected
and then reign, and if they were in **faith**, they
would **rejoice**.

We live in a negative world, a fallen world where
it seems that the ungodly are getting more and
more prominent.

So much of what we hear is just negative,

we have to make a deliberate effort to be
positive and **counter the culture** we live in.

Darlene and I spent a little time together at the
Fort Worth Stock Yards yesterday had a
wonderful time enjoying each other, I was
hearing conversation everywhere, one mother

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was talking to her daughter and she called her my little maniac.

Maniac definition; is a person exhibiting extreme symptoms of wild behavior, especially when violent and dangerous.

My response to hearing those words was, I prayed off those words in Jesus name, she will praise the Lord with her whole heart all the days of her life.

You may think, well that was just a cute name of endearment!

Words are powerful

Our thoughts are the birthplace of praise!

Praise can also be a tool.

If someone were to pass out, the first thing we'd do is check their pulse to see if their heart is still beating.

In the same sense, checking our praise lives is how we check our spiritual pulse.

If we don't live lives that are constantly giving thanksgiving and praise unto God, we are not spiritually healthy.

But Paul said in Philippians 4:4—

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Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Paul didn't just say it once; he said it twice.

He didn't want anyone thinking he had made a mistake or that there were exceptions to what he said.

We are always supposed to be rejoicing in the Lord. It's a command, not a suggestion to do it if we feel like it.

Paul lived what he preached.

Acts 16:22-26

22 The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods.

23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;

24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

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26 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.

When he was beaten and thrown in the deepest darkest part of the dungeon, he and Silas broke out in praise at midnight.

They didn't just do this as spiritual warfare.

They weren't praising God through gritted teeth, just to get out of their problem.

When they were set free, they didn't leave.

They were actually praising God because they loved Him and were worshiping out of a pure heart.

It so affected the other prisoners that none of them left either.

Praise caused revival.

We may not feel joyful, but the word of God tells us in ***Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness***

Galatians is saying that the fruit of the Spirit is **joy**. If we have the Holy Spirit, **we have joy**. My

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word tells me that the Joy of the Lord is my strength.

We may not feel that joy, but we can choose to lift our hands and speak forth praise to God by faith.

Learning to praise God even when everything is going badly will change our hearts, make us much more effective, and **cause our faith to grow.**

I truly believe that when I chose to praise God that my son was alive and perfectly okay, when I closed the door to the police officer telling me my son was pulled from a frozen pond and on the way to the hospital.

That he is alive and healthy today.

I didn't know what the outcome would be, but I started praising God with all of my heart and telling Him—and the devil—that regardless, I would not quit serving Him.

It was at that moment that faith abounded in my heart, and I knew he would be okay. Thank You, Jesus!

We have to accept responsibility.

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We aren't just elevated animals, responding to stimuli.

We are created in the image of God.

We can choose to say that we are going to give thanks and rejoice in the Lord.

But until we do, we are victims.

We will never be victors until we quit being victims.

We have to get rid of the excuses and just do what the Word of God says.

Philippians 4:6 says—

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Do you know what the Greek word for “nothing” in that verse means?

It means *nothing*!

It means there are no exceptions.

Sure, you might have problems, but you don't have to worry about them.

You don't have to be *careful* about them.

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You can go to the Lord in prayer with thanksgiving and make your requests known to Him.

Jesus demonstrated the right way to bring our requests to God.

He used what I call the “sandwich technique,” where we sandwich our requests in between two slices of praise.

We start with praise, and we end with praise.

We can just look at how Jesus did it in the Lord’s Prayer.

Matt. 6:9-13

“Pray, then, in this way:

*‘Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.*

*10 ‘Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.*

11 ‘Give us this day our daily bread.

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12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

He started by praising God: *"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."*

And He finished by praising God: *"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever."*

Now that's the way to live in praise.....

Even in the Old Testament, believers were told to

Ps. 100:4

*Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.*

But the nation of Israel didn't always do this.

In Deut. 28:47-57 the Lord said that because they did not serve the Lord with joyfulness and

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gladness for the abundance of all things, He was going to bring judgment upon them.

This shows that God holds us responsible for rejoicing, praising Him, and being thankful for all the good things He's given us.

We face a lot of tough circumstances in this life, and the world responds in a certain way when problems come.

But God told us to respond a different way—to not let our hearts be troubled.

We get to choose according to Deut. 30:19, we have the option of following Jesus' words and acting on the Word of God.

I have personally felt the benefit of rejoicing in the Lord.

I have seen it destroy the devil.

He cannot stand it.

I really believe that God inhabits the praises of His people according to Ps. 22:3.

God is so pleased when we look beyond the natural and see things in the light of faith.

That blesses God.

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Praise is not the inevitable by-product that comes when everything is going right in our lives;

Praise is the driving force.

Praise will get our focus where it needs to be—
on **God**.

If we start praising God in the middle of our problems, our problems will shrink so much that we'll hardly remember to bring them to God!

Let's **PRAISE HIM**, in our **everything**...