

Power of Praise and Thanksgiving

Introduction -

- Story - Veruca Salt receives the golden ticket, Daddy I want another Pony
- We live in a culture of ingratitude
- Never enough - Always more we could have - Consumerism encourages this
- An attitude of entitlement
- This keeps us running a rat race, never really happy or thankful

The very quality of your life, whether you love it or hate it, is based upon how thankful you are toward God. It is one's attitude that determines whether life unfolds into a place of blessedness or wretchedness. Indeed, looking at the same rose bush, some people complain that the roses have thorns while others rejoice that some thorns come with roses. It all depends on your perspective.

This is the only life you will have before you enter eternity. If you want to find joy, you must first find thankfulness. Indeed, the one who is thankful for even a little enjoys much. But the unappreciative soul is always miserable, always complaining. He lives outside the shelter of the Most High God. **Francis Frangipane**

Thankfulness commanded

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17**

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. **Colossians 4:2**

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. **Colossians 2:6-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **Philippians 4:4**

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

- Not just the attitude of gratitude but giving that attitude a voice
- Give thanks in all circumstances

Most of us need to repent of ingratitude, for it is ingratitude itself that is keeping wounds alive! We need to forgive the wrongs of the past and become thankful for what we have in the present. The moment we become

grateful, we actually begin to ascend spiritually into the presence of God.

Francis Frangipane

Power of Praise

- Praise flows from a thankful heart
- Praise is a form of prayer

1. Praise brings presence

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. [5] For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. **Psalm 100:4-5**

- Praise brings you into God's presence
- Praise brings God's presence to you

2. Praise releases the prophetic

But now bring me a harpist." While the harpist was playing, the hand of the Lord came on Elisha [16] and he said, "This is what the Lord says: I will fill this valley with pools of water. [17] For this is what the Lord says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. [18] This is an easy thing in the eyes of the Lord; he will also deliver Moab into your hands. [19] You will overthrow every fortified city and every major town. You will cut down every good tree, stop up all the springs, and ruin every good field with stones." **2 Kings 3:15-19**

- It changes atmosphere and opens up for revelation gifts

3. Praise brings protection/power

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendour of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever." [22] As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. **2 Chronicles 20:21-22**

- The craziest thing to do - put the worship team out front!
- But it was creating a miracle of power and protection

Main Scripture

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. [23] After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. [24] When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. [25] About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. [26] Suddenly there was such a

violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. **Acts 16:22-26**

- It does not matter what your circumstances are;
- The moment you begin to thank God, even though your situation has not changed, you begin to change.
- The key that unlocks the gates of Heaven is a thankful heart.
- Entrance into the courts of God comes as you simply begin to praise the Lord.

Application

- Commit to an attitude of Gratitude
- Make praise a daily part of your prayer life
 - Praise God because He is worthy
 - Praise is the context for “warfare prayer”
 - Praise releases victory/salvation in our lives and in the world around us

May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, **Psalm 149:6**