Praise
Message 1 in the series, "Beyond the Music"

"It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to the Most High. It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening..." Psalm 92:1–2 (NLT)

Praise – To openly declare and celebrate who God is and what He has done by openly expressing gratitude through our words, actions, and songs.

A. Why Should We Praise God?

1. He deserves it.

"Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness."
Psalm 145:3 (NLT)

"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power..."
Revelation 4:11 (NLT)

2. Scripture instructs us to.

"Let everything that breathes sing praises to the LORD! Praise the LORD!" Psalm 150:6 (NLT)

"Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name." Hebrews 13:15 (NLT)

3. It's part of your purpose.

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"
1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)

B. What Happens When We Praise Him?

1. Praise invites God's manifest presence.

"The trumpeters and singers performed together in unison to praise and give thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices and praised the LORD with these words: 'He is good! His faithful love endures forever!' At that moment a thick cloud filled the Temple of the LORD. The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple of God."
2 Chronicles 5:13–14 (NLT)

"Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel." Psalm 22:3 (NLT)

2. Praise confuses and wards off our enemy.

"At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the LORD caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves." 2 Chronicles 20:22 (NLT)

"Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." Psalm 8:2 (NIV)

3. **Praise changes our <u>perspective</u>.**

"So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked."
Psalm 73:16–17 (NLT)

"Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!" Psalm 42:11 (NLT)

4. **Praise sometimes changes our circumstances.**

"When the people heard the sound of the rams' horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it." Joshua 6:20 (NLT)

C. How Do We Praise Him?

1. **Celebrate, rave, and be clamorously foolish over who God is and what He has done – HALAL**

"Let everything that breathes sing praises to the LORD! Praise the LORD!" Psalm 150:6 (NLT)

"Come, everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!" Psalm 47:1 (NLT)

2. **Lift or extend your hands – YADAH**

"Lift your hands toward the sanctuary, and praise the LORD." Psalm 134:2 (NLT)

"In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy." 1 Timothy 2:8 (NLT)

3. **Praise God with a loud, bold, and joyful voice, openly declaring His greatness – SHABACH**

"Shout to the LORD, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy!" Psalm 98:4 (NLT)

"I will praise the LORD at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. I will boast only in the LORD; let all who are helpless take heart." Psalm 34:1–2 (NLT)

4. **Play music and sing – ZAMAR**

"Praise the LORD with melodies on the lyre; make music for him on the ten-stringed harp."
Psalm 33:2 (NLT)

"...Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts."
Colossians 3:16 (NLT)

5. **Sing a spontaneous song – TEHILLAH**

"I will sing a new song to you, O God! I will sing your praises with a ten-stringed harp."
Psalm 144:9 (NLT)

"...singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts." Ephesians 5:19 (NLT)

6. **Give a sacrifice of praise by singing and giving thanks for the answer before the answer comes – TOWDAH**

"But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors me..." Psalm 50:23 (NLT)

"Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name." Hebrews 13:15 (NLT)

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