



PRAISE

THE PATH TO YOUR MIRACLE

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INTRODUCTION

Thankfulness brings the presence of God into our lives.

God's presence is always with us and in us as believers. However, we need to intentionally turn our attention to God to experience His presence, and one of the best ways to do this is by praising Him.

There are many ways to praise God—singing, shouting, making joyful noise and laughter. And, according to this verse, **another Biblical way to praise God is through thanksgiving.**

With praise and thanks they sang this song to the Lord: "He is so good; His faithful love for Israel endures forever!" **Ezra 3:11 (NLT)**

When we focus on what we're grateful for, it's so much easier to be aware of the presence of God. Being thankful doesn't mean you're settling for your current situation. You can believe God for a change while thanking Him for the blessings you have. So, even if problems are pushing at you today, **find something to be thankful for, and you'll become conscious of God's presence in your life to a greater degree.**

PRAISE: THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD



Praise keeps you in the environment where you function best: His presence.

According to Psalm 22:3, God dwells in the praises of His people. *But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel* (KJV). What does this mean? Does it mean that if we don't praise God, He isn't with us?

First, let's take a look at God's kingdom. The kingdom of God exists in two places: planet Earth and the place called Heaven. In Heaven, there's nothing we have to do to experience God's presence. Nothing exists there to separate us from Him. Spirit, soul and body, we will be forever in His presence.

Here on Earth, according to Jesus in Luke 17:21, we can have God's kingdom within us. It comes by receiving Christ as our Saviour. **It's a choice.** Although His presence is always with us and in us as believers, we have to choose to consciously cultivate His presence—to bring Him into our everyday living.

Psalm 100:4 says that we *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise"*. In other words, one choice we make to cultivate God's presence is the choice to praise Him. God is always with us, but praising Him brings our attention to Him, which causes us to experience the benefits of that presence. As Psalm 34:3 teaches, *we magnify the Lord when we exalt His name* (NKJV), which means we make Him bigger in our lives by causing Him to take up a bigger piece of our attention.

You can praise God every day! Remember, praise doesn't make God feel better about Himself. Praise is for your benefit. **It keeps you in the environment where you function best: His presence.**

PRAISE MAKES MIRACLES HAPPEN

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Praising God is one powerful way to release faith!

Praise causes us to become more conscious of His presence, which creates the ideal environment for us to live our lives. Not only does praise cause us to become more aware of God's love, peace and joy, but it also creates an atmosphere where the miraculous can happen.

The events in Acts 16 illustrate this point very well. After angering the owners of a slave-girl by casting the fortune-telling spirit out of her, Paul and Silas were dragged before the authorities, beaten with rods and thrown into a dungeon. Bleeding and broken, the two men decided to start singing praises to God around midnight.

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

Acts 16:25-26 (NKJV)

Now, I'm sure that these two men didn't feel like praising God. Yet as they were singing, an earthquake began to shake the foundations of the prison, and miraculously every prison door was opened. Praise strengthens and releases faith. **It creates an atmosphere where we can experience the miraculous.**

The trouble is, **we often don't feel like praising God when we need it most.** We're worried unhappy, upset, and filled with fear. We're hurt, so we're angry, disappointed and resentful. The last thing we feel like doing is counting our blessings, but that's exactly when we need to praise God the most. Is praising God the last thing on your mind today? If so, chances are you need it most!

PRAISE PUTS GOD FIRST

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Put God first by praising Him, and you become empowered to overcome.

What is praising God all about? This quote by Myles Munroe sums it up well: **“Praise is celebrating God as our heart’s true home.”**

And why is praise so vital? Because praise puts our focus on God; it puts Him in first place. Often, we put other things first in our lives. When we’re facing a problem, we put that problem first. It’s the first thing on our minds in the morning and it’s the last thing we think about at night.

Now, I’m not saying that you shouldn’t deal with your problems. Ignoring a problem doesn’t make it go away; however, when you take the time to put God first by praising Him, **you become empowered to solve that problem.**

When something is pushing against me, I find that the louder I praise, the more quickly I feel empowered to overcome it.

*Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord. **Psalm 113:1 (AMP)***

Day by day we need to guard our hearts so other things don’t move into first place. A new job, a new relationship, a new baby, a new home... many things vie for our attention. Praise puts God first. When you get up in the morning, before you do anything else, get yourself into the right environment. While brushing your teeth or on your commute to work, blast your favourite worship song or just praise Him. Say, “Praise You Father. Thank You for being so awesome. Thank You for the amazing day You’ve planned for me. You’re incredible, and I just want to thank You right now for all You’ve done.”

You need God’s presence, so praise Him today and **remind yourself that He’s first in your life!**

PRAISE FLOWS FROM RELATIONSHIP



The more you get to know God, the more you have to praise Him about.

When someone who doesn't know you very well compliments something you've done, it feels nice. But when someone who's seen a lot of your work says, "Wow, that's some of your best work yet," it's even better. The better you know someone, the more specific, personal and powerful your praise of them is.

The same is true with God. The more you get to know Him, the more you have to praise Him about and the deeper and more personal your praise becomes. You see, as you get to know Him, you begin to become more aware of the fact that God isn't just your Creator and Saviour—He's also your friend, and He's here for you.

I do not call you servants any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you [My] friends, because I have revealed to you everything that I have heard from My Father.

John 15:15 (AMP)

Jesus refers to us as His friends. Do you ever think about that? God doesn't want to control you or rule over you like a dictator. He doesn't look down on you or focus on your flaws. **God sees you as a friend—someone He's in a relationship with, in partnership with, someone He loves.**

When we worship God, praise flows from the friendship we have with Him. Praise can be just as natural as giving your loved ones a compliment. You can praise God in church, but you can just as easily praise Him at home, at work, in your car or at school, out loud or silently.

Wherever you go, praise God. Remember, you're not doing it for His benefit. You're doing it to put Him first and to remind yourself of how awesome He is, because He is worthy of all our praise!

PRAISE IS A CONSCIOUS CHOICE



Decide that you're going to live every day of your life praised up.

We as Christians often assume that God's presence is something that comes and goes—that it can suddenly fill the room and can leave the room just as quickly. The trouble with this belief is it causes us to think that God's presence is fleeting, that it's unpredictable and that we don't have any control over whether or not His presence is with us.

The truth is that God's presence is always with us. His Spirit lives within us after all; He doesn't come and go. **What comes and goes is our awareness of Him.** Becoming aware of the presence of God takes a conscious effort. And praise isn't something you do just when you feel like it. Praise is a function of the will, and it's

often most powerful during those times when you don't feel like praising God at all.

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24 (KJV)

As believers, we don't live by our feelings. Our feelings don't dictate our behaviour or our attitudes. This verse doesn't say, "This is the day the Lord has made; I *feel* like rejoicing." It says, "I **will** rejoice and be glad in it."

When you choose to rejoice, even when you don't feel like it, you become aware of God's presence. You begin to sense His power in you, and then the good feelings come and you start to feel glad about your day. It's not the other way around.

The next time you're feeling down, put on some life-giving praise and worship music and start giving thanks to God. Decide that you're going to live every day of your life praised up, because praise helps to create an atmosphere where the miraculous can happen.

PRAISE IS A WILLING SACRIFICE

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6

Let's bring our best to God when we praise Him!

The word sacrifice is a very important word. In the Old Testament, when God's people brought an animal sacrifice, it was unacceptable to bring a sick or injured one. They always offered the best of their flock to God.

Today, we are not asked to bring animal sacrifices to God, but we do bring a sacrifice of praise, according to this verse in Hebrews.

Through Him, therefore, let us at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name. Hebrews 13:15 (AMP)

Let's bring our best to God when we praise Him!

When you begin to praise God every chance you get, I can't even describe how your life will change. When you're at home, blast the praise and worship music and dance around the house.

It's easy to make excuses for why we don't praise God more often. We're busy, we never get a minute alone, we can't get our minds off our problems... but the truth is we can do it, and it doesn't have to take long. You don't have to set aside an hour or two. You can praise God in the shower. You can praise Him for a minute while you're waiting for the kettle to boil. Keep pushing out other thoughts and concerns and turn your full attention to praising God.

Praise may be referred to as a sacrifice, but the only difficult part is in deciding to do it. You may not feel like it at the beginning, but as you keep choosing to praise Him, your heart will become lighter. You'll stir up your faith and, over time, you'll be amazed as praise becomes a habitual attitude of your heart, fuelling a joy-filled way of life

PRAISE: AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH



Praise strengthens faith and begins to release the power of God in your life.

Praise is an expression of our faith. Some of the most touching moments I've ever experienced have involved walking with a family through crisis and seeing them lift their hands in praise at church. Praise sends such a powerful message during tough times because we know these people aren't praising God for their situation. He didn't create it. We know they aren't praising God because they feel like praising Him. They're praising God in spite of the situation.

They're saying, "I don't know why this is happening, but I know that You're my God, You are good and I trust in You to get us through!" If your health is under attack, there's still a lot to praise God about.

When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were struck down [in defeat]. **2 Chronicles 20:22 (AMP)**

You can praise Him for the fact that when Jesus went to the cross, He took all our sickness and disease, and healing became ours. You can praise God for His promises of health and healing because they belong to you!

As you praise and thank God for who He is and what He has done, your faith is strengthened and released. You see, the Bible says that faith without action on our part is dead, so praise is an important part of the faith process. It causes you to become aware that God is in you, which creates an atmosphere for the miraculous to happen.

Praise begins to release the power of God in your life. If you want to see miracles, signs and wonders, if you want see doors of financial blessing open and healing take place, cultivate the presence of God by praising Him!

CONCLUSION

Praise is how we stay in His rest, and how we stand firm in our faith.

As believers, we are overcomers. We are more than conquerors. We are empowered to rise above the struggles of life.

However, we can't be complacent. It's easy to get caught up in fear, low self-esteem and hopelessness, **so we need to keep our minds focused on the reality that we have God's presence and spirit inside us.**

Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still holds and is offered [today], let us be afraid [to distrust it], lest any of you should think he has come too late and has come short of [reaching] it.

Hebrews 4:1 (AMPC)

We weren't designed to handle the stresses and pressures of life without an awareness of God's presence in us. When we go through seasons that are hard to handle, we need to stay aware of that presence so God's peace can wrap around us. This is how we stay in His rest, and how we stand firm in our faith. Then, even when we can't see a solution, we stand in faith that the power of God will move on our behalf and the miraculous will begin to happen.

As a believer, the presence of God is in you. You can cultivate and enjoy His presence, and learn to live in His rest. **Spend time in thanksgiving, praising Him today, and start reaping the benefits of His peace and rest!**

Supernatural Promises

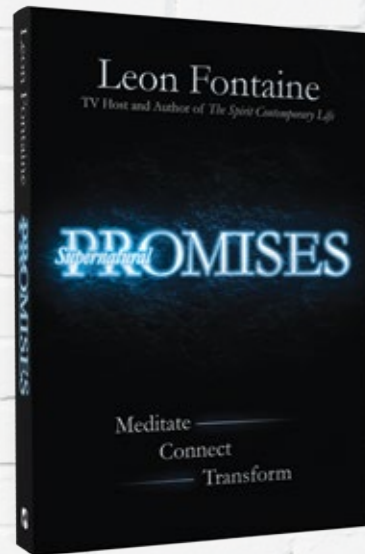
As you develop a habit of praising God, your faith grows stronger and you begin to experience His peace like never before. Praise is actually one way that we meditate on God's Word and claim His promises.

You see, it's one thing to know the Word, but it's another to see God's power working in your life. This has more to do with what's in our heart than what's in our head. Real change is about connecting with God at the heart-level.

My recent book, *Supernatural Promises*, will walk you through God's promises in over 70 different areas, such as purpose, healing and grace. Learn to meditate on the Word, connect to it deeply and see it transform your life in a powerful, personal way!

When you give \$40 or more toward Miracle Channel, we'll send you a copy of this book as our way of saying thank you! Click [here](#) to give.

You can walk in the power of God's promises



GET SUPERNATURAL PROMISES

Offer available in Canada only

ABOUT



Miracle Channel is television with purpose.

It is reaching people with the hope of Christ through contemporary, life-changing programs.

In addition to airing programming from popular ministries such as Joyce Meyer, Joel Osteen and Joseph Prince, the channel airs documentaries, talk shows, movies, news, live programs and children's shows.

Miracle Channel has been leading the Christian television industry in Canada since 1996 as the first, and still the only, all Christian broadcaster.

Leon Fontaine

Leon is the CEO of *Miracle Channel*, host of *The Spirit Contemporary Life*, and the Senior Pastor of *Springs Church*, one of the largest churches in Canada.

His weekly messages broadcast across North and South America, Asia, Africa and other far-reaching parts of the world.

Leon's daily devotional, *Devoted with Leon*, is sent by mail and email to thousands of readers.

