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Daily Devotional - March 30, 2022 - Expressions of Praise

MARCH 30TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - March 30, 2022 - Expressions of Praise

Psalm 34:1-3

Glorifying God isn't limited to church. In fact, praise ought to permeate every area of our life. But how is that done?

One obvious way that we praise the Lord is with our voices. True worship flows from the mouths of believers who are focused on God's attributes. They desire to honor Him because of who He is, what He's done, and what He has promised for the future. Genuine worship allows the Lord to fill our hearts and minds with His presence anywhere.

Our God is also praised when we serve Him. We were created for the purpose of bringing honor and glory to His name. Therefore, nothing should limit our willingness to work for the King, particularly when we have a chance to share Him with others. Christ is honored when His followers speak boldly about His grace and His work—believers' testimonies are a remarkable and honoring form of praise that magnifies God's name.

Jesus Christ is worth more than any treasure this world offers. Loving Him and understanding what He has done for us should be all the motivation we need to praise Him with our life—no matter where we are.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, March 29, 2022 - Praising the Lamb of God

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, March 29, 2022 - Praising the Lamb of God

Revelation 5

John's revelation of heaven's throne room is a picture of true praise. He describes the place exploding with worship and adoration of Jesus. Those present—the elders and “myriads of myriads” of angels (Rev. 5:11)—are motivated to sing their love of Christ because they know who He is. He is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world ([John 1:29](#)). He is the Lion of Judah (Rev. 5:5), the only one worthy to judge the earth and bring forth its renewal.

What motivates believers to lift hands and voice in worship—shouldn't the reason be to praise the Savior for who He is? To do that, we must take the time to know as much as we can about Him. That happens through regular Bible study and prayer that is less self-focused.

Once we glimpse a side of Christ's character that's bigger and more amazing than we realized, there will be a yearning to know more. We hunger and thirst for God because only He can truly satisfy ([Matthew 5:6](#)).

Praise is part of a cycle: Learn more of God's character, love Him more deeply, worship and serve Him better, and receive spiritual fulfillment. Amazingly, even as we are satisfied, we crave more of His presence in our life. And so we dig into His Word and continually gain in the Lord.

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, March 24, 2022 - God's Guidance for Forgiveness

Daily Devotional - Thursday, March 24, 2022 - God's Guidance for Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

When someone repeatedly wrongs us, we often try to draw a line at the number of times we'll accept apologies. In other situations, we may attempt to categorize which offenses we'll pardon. But Jesus drew no such lines at the cross. God's unconditional pardon of our sins means that our forgiveness toward others should likewise have no limitations—even when certain behaviors can't be allowed to continue.

Another issue is the temptation to hang on to resentment for a time instead of forgiving instantly. But when we cling to unforgiveness—even for a short period—Satan can gain a foothold. If the Father's will is that we forgive, why should we wait?

Forgiveness is painful and costly—Jesus felt every nail, every thorn. But a truly forgiving spirit knows that good can come from the unfortunate situation. For instance, “good” could take the form of God developing our character or perhaps exposing our weakness to drive us closer to Him.

Realizing God is sovereign makes us more ready to forgive. Let's trust Jesus to remove any desire for retaliation—and to provide us with the wisdom and strength necessary to act in ways that please Him. And when it comes to forgiveness, let's approach our offender with the intent of reconciling. That means doing whatever God directs in order to get our relationship right—just as Jesus did for u

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, March 23, 2022 - How to Truly Forgive

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, March 23, 2022 - How to Truly Forgive

[Ephesians 4:25-32](#)

Did you know it's possible to extend forgiveness to another person and yet still cling to resentment? We might say everything is okay, but our unpardoning spirit remains—and it will linger until we emotionally release the other person from the wrong he or she did. Thankfully, there's a way to truly move on:

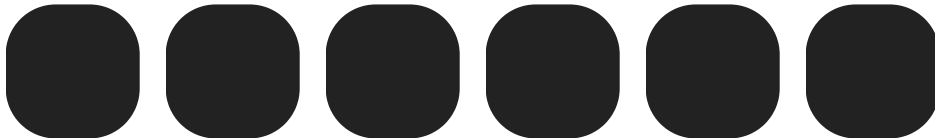
- *First, assume responsibility for your unforgiving spirit, and choose a change of heart toward the other person. The healing process begins with repentance.*
- *Then, release your hold over the debt you feel is owed.*
- *Recognize the other person's violation has exposed an area of weakness in you—namely, your resentment and desire for vengeance.*
- *Finally, remember how often God forgives you.*

The Lord is grieved to see His children cling to an unforgiving spirit, because emotional debt imprisons us. We become paralyzed by our own distrust, resentment, and insecurity, which only build walls that shut out family and friends. In contrast, God's goal for us is freedom from bitterness. He wants to see us reconcile with our offender and even show tenderhearted, loving acceptance. We have a calling from God to forgive. Though that can be difficult, it is possible because Christ lives in us ([Galatians 2:20](#)).

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, March 22, 2022 - Confession and Forgiveness

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, March 22, 2022 - Confession and Forgiveness

[1 John 1:5-10](#)

Many Christians find it troubling that they repeatedly deal with certain sins. And they rightly turn to 1 John 1:9 for assurance: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” They’re relieved to know God forgives our sins, and they promise to do better. But some people have misunderstood this verse—they believe our salvation is tied to continual confession.

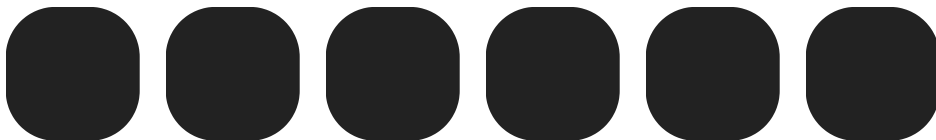
There’s a big difference between relationship (the unbreakable Father-child bond) and fellowship (our line of communication). Certainly confession plays a vital role in maintaining intimate communication with the Father, but the believer’s standing as His child cannot change. Fellowship with God is interrupted by sin ([Psalm 66:18](#)) but restored when we confess and repent. Then we are freed from the emotional bondage of guilt and shame.

As we mature in our faith, the inclination to sin will decrease. But as long as our earthly life continues, we won’t be fully free of fleshly tendencies. [Romans 8:1](#) offers this additional reassurance: “Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.” So, while our sin may have temporal consequences, we can be certain God has fully pardoned us.

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