

Make it a Habit to Praise the Lord

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In Psalm 7:17 David said, “I will praise the Lord according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the Lord most high.” The Psalms have much to say about praising the Lord. Read especially Psalm 150 where in six verses the word *praise* is found thirteen times. It closes with verse 6 by saying, “Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”

Now when I speak of praising the Lord, I do not mean only public expressions of praise. For instance, when you have prayed about a very important matter and God answers your prayers, praise Him for it. When you’re reminded of His blessings in other areas, take time to praise Him.

I think I have praised the Lord more the last year than I ever have in my life, and I feel guilty that I did not praise Him more, earlier. Looking back, I now wish I had spent more time praising Him for the health that I enjoyed for fifty-eight years before being diagnosed with cancer.

Billy Bray, the Cornish miner, used to shout “Glory!” all the time. It was his way of praising the Lord. One day while he was visiting a dying lady in the hospital, she

said, “Billy, if I had the strength, I’d praise the Lord.” Billy replied, “It’s a pity you didn’t praise Him when you had the strength.”

Some of the happiest moments of my life have occurred in the last year. It was those moments when I was alone with God and offering genuine praise, heartfelt praise, for the wonderful, wonderful things He has done for me. I think, when we get to Heaven, we’ll wish we had praised Him more. I have an idea that, up in Heaven, they are praising the Lord.

Isaiah tells us in chapter 6 that the seraphim are flying around the throne of God, singing, “Holy, holy, holy!” What’s wrong with saying, “Praise the Lord for good health! Thank the Lord for a good family! O Jesus, I praise You for the wonderful things You’ve done for me”?

I wish I had the vocabulary to express the praise that my heart feels. Sing the Doxology and sing it from your heart:

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Don’t be a dead, dull, drab, dry Christian who thinks that all praise is shallow emotionalism. Learn to say, “Praise the Lord!” “Hallelujah!” and “Amen!” and express it when you feel it.