

Only when we correctly understand the essence and the dynamics of praising God will we engage in this powerful and wonderful activity. People have several misconceptions about praising God. Probably the biggest mistake they make is to imagine that the praise is mostly for God's sake, as though He needed to hear Himself being worshipped. Actually, praising God benefits us! It enhances the process of lining us up with God's ways, and getting our hearts better situated to receive His intentions.

God is enthroned on the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3). When we praise Him, we invite more of His Kingdom power to invade our life's circumstances. By praising God, we reassert that He is "far above all {other} rule and authority" that may be trying to direct our life (Eph. 1:20-22).

Praise is also a double confession (translate that *agreement with God*); firstly, it confirms that His doings are more critical to the outcome of things than are our works; and secondly, praise *lifted up* to God reminds everyone (and everything) — including ourselves — that He can accomplish far more than that for which we know to ask, and that about which we know to think (Eph. 3:20).

The tongue is a powerful instrument that (literally) has much to say about the course of our life (see Jas. 3:1-8). Praise acts as an effective counterbalance to thoughtless or coarse words coming from our lips, and it speeds up the process of trying to learn what pleases God in our life (Eph. 5:4,10).

Rejoice

in the Lord always;  
again I will say,  
rejoice!

Let your forbearing  
spirit be known to all  
men. The Lord is  
near. Be anxious for  
nothing, but in  
everything by prayer  
and supplication with  
thanksgiving let your  
requests be made  
known to God.

Philip. 4:4-6

Rejoice always;

pray without ceasing;  
in everything give  
thanks;  
for this is God's  
will for you in  
Christ Jesus.

1 Thes. 5:16-18

Through Him then, let  
us continually offer up  
a sacrifice of praise to  
God, that is, the fruit  
of lips that give  
thanks to His name.  
Hebrews 13:15