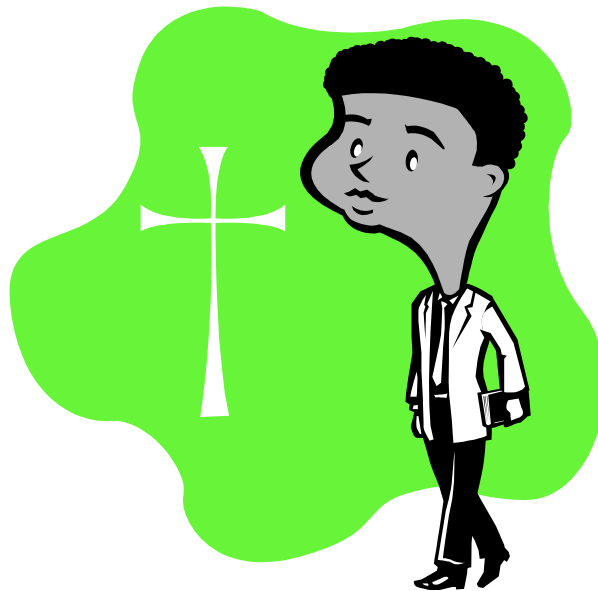


A Wheat Street Bible Study

“WE ARE WHEAT STREET!”

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The Power of Praise *in* *God’s Plan for Prosperity: Prosperity in Perspective*



The Power and Place of Praise

in

God’s Plan for Your Life!

I want to reclaim the world prosperity in this lesson. I believe God wants us and the church to prosper. To prosper is not about having cars or houses but rather it is about have peace in God. It is about being sure you are being who God has designed you to be and doing what God would have you to do at this point in your journey. Now, don’t misunderstand me I am not suggesting that God can’t bless of with things but I am saying that that is not the measure of true prosperity. Our being prosperous is not about

what we have but rather who we are. We blessed by being God's creation that was created on purpose and with purpose.

We also know that as we pursue our purpose in God and move toward our divine destiny we come into a greater state of blessedness which we refer to as prosperity. Prosperity is not simply worldly riches. God is not a mutual fund, investment broker or bank. God wants to bless us in every way not just financially. Therefore we don't define prosperity in dollars and cents.

We define prosperity as the overall state in which we live realizing that God can develop us in one area while another area is in the process of prospering. We also have suggested that whatever God gives us it is not for us to hoard for ourselves. God blesses us to be a blessing not to be selfish and to use our state of blessedness as something we hold over the head of others.

We also know that prosperity is relative and what is a major blessing to you may be a minor blessing to others but our blessings and prosperity doesn't mean that we are more or less favored it is relative. It is relative in the sense that if you move from homelessness to an apartment you are as prosperous as someone who moves from a two bedroom home to a three bedroom home. We don't compare ourselves with others nor envy what God has given them. We are thankful for our level of prosperity and we know we get what we got to share it and bless others and in return we are blessed.

In this lesson we look at the role of praise in the process of prosperity. This lesson is important because it will show us how important praise is in this process. We will see how praise opens us up to God's plan for our life and also protects us from the enemy that is sent to steal kill and destroy our blessing!

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

How do we keep the thief out of our house?

The Thief Has His Eyes On You!

Whenever we decide to be obedient and get those things that God has promised us the battle ensues. The devil will get in our way and actively fight against us (Ephesians 6:10-20). The devil's plan is to stop us from getting what God has pre-pared for us. The question for us is how will we fight this battle? As we prepare to move into the area of blessedness that God has pre-pared for us we have to understand the importance, place and power of praise in this process of prosperity. Many folk can't prosper because they refuse to let go and praise God. If you can't praise God, God can't bless you. Praise blesses God and God blesses us in the process of praise.

Praise Blesses God!

Psalm 34:1-10

Praise for Deliverance from Trouble

Of David, when he feigned madness before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.

- 1** I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 2** My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3** O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
- 4** I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5** Look to him, and be **radiant**;
so your[a] faces shall never be ashamed.
- 6** This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble.
- 7** The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
- 8** O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
- 9** O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
- 10** The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Praise should continually be in our mouths! We don't just praise God in church but we should praise God by how we live our life. The passage is clear when we praise God continually we bless God and God will dry up our tears, save us from our troubles, send angels to encamp around us to protect us, and we will lack no good thing!

We will have no lack because in praise we recognize who God is and what God can do. We see God as a provider. We see that we have the resources to get through what we are going through. We will not be overtaken by our present struggle / trouble.

We realize that no matter what we are dealing with God is able. We see, feel, sense, and recognize the awesome power of God. Praise opens our heart, mind and soul to see God. We get a glimpse of God's glory and power in praise.

Now let me set the record straight at the beginning there is no right or wrong way to praise God but we must praise God with an open heart. When we come to praise openly God will move us and speak to us. You can stand, sit, dance, run, tumble, it doesn't matter as long as your mind and heart are turned toward heaven and your spirit is prepared to hear from God and receive what God has to say to you in that moment or through that day.

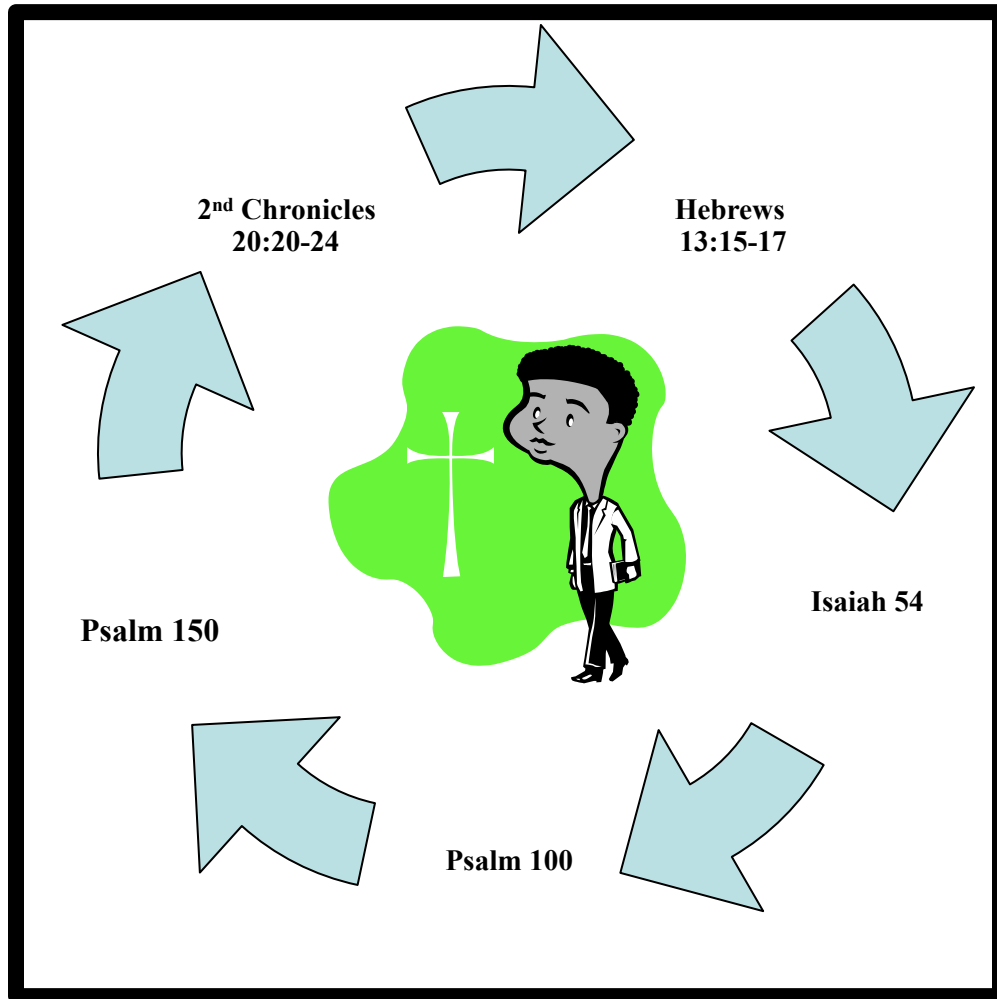
Questions to Ponder

Did you praise God today?	Have you blessed the Lord today?
Have you been praising God all day?	Have you heard from the Lord today?

Praise is as important as prayer. We have been continually admonished to pray everyday but the Bible is clear, we are to praise God everyday, all day as well. So when you pray don't forget to praise!

Praise = The Circle of Defense and Direction

Praise has the power to construct a fence around us and lead us into special place of protection, revelation and a state of peace that doesn't make sense. There are five keys to constructing the fence and they go together and they should inform how we continually praise God!



Step #1: 2nd Chronicles 20:20-25

20 They rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God and you will be established; believe his prophets.” **21** When he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy splendor, as they went before the army, saying, “Give thanks to the Lord,

for his steadfast love endures forever.”

22 As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the Ammonites, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. **23** For the Ammonites and Moab attacked the

inhabitants of Mount Seir, destroying them utterly; and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

24 When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; they were corpses lying on the ground; no one had escaped. **25** When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take the booty from them, they found livestock in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They spent three days taking the booty, because of its abundance.

A key part of praise is that it opens us up to hear the word and believe the word spoken by the men and women that God has appointed to equip us and teach us. When we believe the word of God in the context of praise and worship the Bible is clear it moves us to the point of our personal relative prosperity or a recognized state of being blessed.

As we hear the word, believe the word, and then prepare to act on the word we must know that we are entering a battle. The key to entering this battle and winning it is recognizing that we have to praise God before going into battle. When we praise God before entering battle look what happens.

1. The Lord will set ambushes for your enemies or those who want to fight against God's plan for your life.
2. God will defeat your enemies.
3. God will literally wipe your enemies out!
4. God will give you the riches of your enemies.

The key here is praise. A lot of us are working hard and praying hard but in some instances we might not be praising hard. Praise opens up to see what God is doing and how God is going to fight our battles while God simultaneously tells what do in the context of our daily battles.

The fact that God is going before us cannot be used as an excuse for us to do nothing. God is still going to instruct us in some way to do something but it is in the context of praise that we get that revelation.

Step #2: Hebrews 13:15-17

15 Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. **16** Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you.

There two good times to praise God. The first is when we feel like it and the second is when we don't feel like it. We must offer a sacrifice of praise to God which simply means we must give it up even when it is hard. When we are going through something (which seems to be all the time) praise opens us up and empowers us to walk through what we are going through to get what is on the other side. We feel better when we praise God.

We are to offer praises with our lips / our mouths constantly telling God thank you for the specific things God has done our lives. Praise means we lift our head which means if we do it always we will never walk with our head down! If we walk with our head up we are looking up at God and we will receive sight and insight. We will receive hope and ideas. We will get a new and creative word.

So as we are blessed we are to bless and protect the man or woman of God that is sent to shepherd us because it is through them that we will receive new word. Our praise of God and getting a word from God is directly related how we treat the pastor of our church. We have to work with them to make his or her job easy. We have to protect them so they can feed us because it is through them that we get the word of via God's prophets that we are to believe and then act on that leads us to greater measures of prosperity (2nd Chronicles 20:20).

Step #3: Isaiah 54:1-4 & 17

1 Sing, O barren one who did not bear;
burst into song and shout,
you who have not been in labor!

For the children of the desolate woman will be more
than the children of her that is married, says the Lord.

2 Enlarge the site of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.

3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left,
and your descendants will possess the nations
and will settle the desolate towns.

4 Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed;
do not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace;
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.
17 No weapon that is fashioned against you shall prosper,
and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.
This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord
and their vindication from me, says the Lord.

We have to praise God while we got what we got. We can't wait until we get what we want to praise God, we have to praise God in advance. While we praise God we are to prepare for the blessing that is coming.

Praise feeds our faith so that we act in faith believing that God is going to do what God said God was as God whispered to us in praise and worship.

In essence the word is saying we might not have all we want right now, and folk may laugh at us and pick at us but if we start to praise God while we wait, we will not wait long. God is coming and those that mock us and poke fun at us will not win (Isaiah 40:31). The weapons they are trying to use against us will not work! All we have to do is praise, wait, act on God's word, and prepare for the blessing. We don't wait until the blessing comes we have to prepare by faith that it is coming.

Step #4: Psalm 100:1-5

A Psalm of thanksgiving.

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;^[a]
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

We have to bring an attitude of praise with us to the house of the Lord. We have to also praise God in the context of worship and by serving God. We praise God by using our gifts for God in the church. The key here is we must enter with the right attitude. Don't let nobody mess up your attitude of praise and thanksgiving because you will mess around and miss God's blessed plan for what is next in your life.

Step #5: Psalm 150:1-6

Praise the Lord!

- 1 Praise God in his sanctuary;
 praise him in his mighty firmament!^[a]
- 2 Praise him for his mighty deeds;
 praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
- 3 Praise him with trumpet sound;
 praise him with lute and harp!
- 4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;
 praise him with strings and pipe!
- 5 Praise him with clanging cymbals;
 praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
- 6 Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

We got to praise God in the sanctuary. Yes we are to praise God continually / everyday / all day and we must also make to the House of God on Sunday to praise God with the saints. There is something special / sacred about corporate praise. We can have a good time by ourselves but the power and presence of God is magnified when we praise God together.

We must come to praise and worship not to be entertained but to be engaged. We must be an active part of the moment. We are to fully participate as the Holy Spirit leads us to free us and empower us!

There is Power in Praise

Praise is key for us as we seek the next level of prosperity. Praise will protect us, guide us, free us and show us what God has in storage for us and how to get it and keep it.

**I Will Praise the Lord at All Times!
God's Praise Will Continually Be In My Mouth**