

THE CALL TO PRAISE PT. 2

Psalm 34:1-3

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I. Personal Resolve to Praise v. 1

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A. In All Circumstances

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What does ALL circumstances include?

- Suffering
- The moment you wake up
- School/work
- Conflict
- Good gifts when we forget God
- Outside formal worship
- Tired
- “Underneath the door” – when tight schedule
- Spiritually dry

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What will preparation for praise in all circumstance include so these are not empty words?

- Consider God's providence in all
- Trust and confidence in the character of God – humility to recognize we don't see or know everything
- Live and keep His word
- Study God – know what to praise
- Start from His perspective
- Fix His “goodness”
- The worst thing will never happen to me
- God's praiseworthiness is independent of our experience – He is transcendent, holy (i.e. Creator)
- Ps. 77:7-8, 11, 14, 20 – God's mighty deeds, He's actively working in our lives

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- I. Personal Resolve to Praise v. 1**
 - A. In All Circumstances**
 - B. From My Mouth**

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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

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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

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity. **2 Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him,** “Take away all iniquity And receive us graciously, That **we may present the fruit of our lips.** **3** “Assyria will not save us, We will not ride on horses; **Nor will we say again, ‘Our god,’ To the work of our hands;** For in You the orphan finds mercy.”

Hosea 14:1-3

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What keeps continual praise from our mouths from being a normal occurrence?

- Self-sufficiency – assume the process (how get food, protect self, create things)
- Entitlement (question when get hard instead of when we get mercy)
- Wrong expectations or values
- Embarrassment (Rom. 1:16)
- Often build relationships with shop talk – grumbling/complaining
- Anxiety apart from God

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- I. Personal Resolve to Praise v. 1**
 - A. In All Circumstances**
 - B. From My Mouth**
 - C. Rooted In Heart's Posture**

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Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:23–24

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What do we learn about boasting in self versus boasting in the Lord from II Corinthians 10:12-18?

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Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: 8 Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, 9 That I not be full and deny You and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.

Proverbs 30:7–9

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“Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; 12 otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Deuteronomy 8:11-14

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“Now therefore, write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the sons of Israel; put it on their lips, so that this song may be a witness for Me against the sons of Israel. 20 “For when I bring them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and are satisfied and become prosperous, then they will turn to other gods and serve them, and spurn Me and break My covenant.

Deuteronomy 31:19–20

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“So their sons entered and possessed the land. And You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, And You gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, To do with them as they desired. 25 “They captured fortified cities and a fertile land. They took possession of houses full of every good thing, Hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves, Fruit trees in abundance. **So they ate, were filled and grew fat, And reveled in Your great goodness. 26 “But they became disobedient and rebelled against You, And cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets who had admonished them So that they might return to You, And they committed great blasphemies.**

Nehemiah 9:24–26

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When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling. He exalted himself in Israel, But through Baal he did wrong and died. 2 And now they sin more and more, And make for themselves molten images, Idols skillfully made from their silver, All of them the work of craftsmen. They say of them, “Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!” 3 Therefore they will be like the morning cloud And like dew which soon disappears, Like chaff which is blown away from the threshing floor And like smoke from a chimney. 4 **Yet I have been the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; And you were not to know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me. 5 I cared for you in the wilderness, In the land of drought. 6 As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, And being satisfied, their heart became proud; Therefore they forgot Me.**

Hosea 13:1-6

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- I. Personal Resolve to Praise v. 1, 2a**
 - A. In All Circumstances**
 - B. From My Mouth**
 - C. Rooted In Heart's Posture**
- II. Public Effect of Personal Praise vv. 2b-3**

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 - A. Encourages the Humble**

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When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.” **12** And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. **13** When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. **14** When she recognized Peter’s voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. **15** They said to her, “You are out of your mind!” But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, “It is his angel.” **16** But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed. **Acts 12:11–16**

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II. Public Effect of Personal Praise vv. 2b-3

- A. Encourages the Humble**
- B. Draws a Line Between Those Who Praise and Those Who Don't**

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Why is this trajectory (a heart that looks for God's words/works, sees His works, responds from a grateful heart in public praise, and then delights in others praising the Lord with them) such a dividing line?

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“The purpose of praise is not to make God’s people feel good but to acknowledge in a communal way the greatness of our God.” Willem Van Gemeren If this is true, what corrective would this have on worship services together?