



Praise! Our Proclamation! Part II

I Peter 2:5, 9 “You also as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”



We know that the nation of Israel are God’s chosen people. They are the apple of His eye according to scripture; but so are we! Because Jesus has redeemed us, we gentiles have been grafted into the vine. We have been made living stones, a holy priesthood, a chosen generation and yes, His own special people. This is enough to give God praise and thanks for all eternity!

This verse in I Peter says that we were “chosen” to “proclaim” the praises of Him. Why? Because He rescued us out of our sin and darkness; out of our hopeless despair. We were separated from Him and now our sins are wiped away forever as we have accepted and confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior. We can not only live an abundant life in Christ here on this earth, but we can look forward to a glorious eternity with Him!

We are to proclaim His praises. Praise and worship could be called the language of the believer because it proclaims our love, adoration, confidence, faith and trust in God and His word. Praise is speaking out or

verbalizing our faith. Praise puts action to our faith.

We shouldn't neglect thanksgiving either. If we thank God after the blessing, that's gratitude. We should always keep an "attitude of gratitude." I remind myself of this fact when I am tempted to complain about my circumstances! I'm sure you never do that, right? Here's the kicker: If we thank God after the blessing, it's gratitude. If we thank God before the blessing, *that's faith!* Glory to God!

Hebrews 10:38 says, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."

So we can't shrink back in timidity, fear or doubt - just let out a shout of praise!

Psalm 146:2: "I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."

Psalm 103:2; "Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

Not only is our praise and worship our faith language, but it changes us! It changes us because it ushers in the manifested presence of God. And when His presence comes we are changed, rearranged, healed and refreshed.

Psalm 22:3: "Thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel."

Isaiah 61:3 says to put on ".... the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness..."

Because we praise and worship our God, we are made like Him in His presence. Whatever we worship changes us and we become like the object of our worship. Some people worship a spouse, a career, their children, a music artist, sports or Hollywood star. Some people worship an addiction or pleasure. I read the following quotes from Pastor Todd Hudnall:

1. If you worship superficial things, your life becomes superficial.
2. If you worship perverted things, your life becomes perverted.
3. If you worship evil things, your life becomes evil.
4. If you worship the true God, you become godly.

Praise is also our sacrifice to God:

Hebrews 13:15 “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise---the fruit of lips that confess His name.”

The sacrifice of praise is a sweet smell to our Father. It's just how we feel when our children genuinely love on us with all their heart; it brings us joy. Praise is our faith in action and our proclamation as His chosen people.

Psalm 100:4: “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.”