



The Trumpet Call

Messages and Reports

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Praise the Lord!

by Sarah Martin

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus, our Risen Lord! Edgar felt that I should write the last newsletter of the year, so I thought I would share some things that God has been teaching me this year. I am overwhelmed by our tremendous lack of praise and worship to God. Many churches have a time of praise and worship and that is good, but I am convinced that we are so far behind in thanking Him that we can't even see the catch-up line.

One night, a few months ago, I was awakened by Edgar preaching in his sleep. I listened to the message about praise and thanksgiving to God. Finally, Edgar said, "If every person under the sound of my voice tonight will really begin to praise God and to thank Him for everything He has done for us, then God could help us." He and I were the only persons under the sound of his voice! God was surely calling us to praise and gratitude!

How important is praise? Paul seemed to think it was pretty important. In 2nd Timothy 3:2, he lists the "unthankful" in the role call of the wicked! Bill Gothard teaches that the first step away from God is ungratefulness. Romans 1:21 seems to back that up: "Because when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

Praise is an expression of love. Many people seem to think that love is a nebulous filmy cloud that floats around and if you are under it, it's wonderful. But if it floats on by, then there's nothing you can do, you're just not "in love" anymore. So they jettison the spouse and go off searching for another "cloud" of love. The Bible does not teach this. (Actually, if husbands and wives would spend a few minutes each day praising God and being thankful for each other, the divorce rate would plummet!) God commands us **TO** love certain things (God, His Kingdom, our spouses) and sometimes we are commanded **NOT** to love certain things (money, the world) therefore if love can be commanded, then love must be controlled by the will. Praise is also a function of the will and not the emotions. We don't have to wait until we "feel" thankful or joyful before we praise God, we can stir up our thankfulness by an act of our will.

This next year set aside a certain time each day to apply yourself to praising God. I knew one man who made stop signs a place to offer God a few words of praise. My mother and I used to sing songs of praise every time we went somewhere in the car. Mom liked to praise God every time her clock chimed. Discussing politics may leave you feeling depressed, but discussing the greatness of God will always leave you feeling uplifted. Can't think of anything to

say? Read the Psalms and sing the hymns, they are full of inspiring praise and worship to God. “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and **be ye thankful!**” Col. 3:15