**By DE & CQ**

**Topic 13:** Praise and the Joy of the Lord

**(5 short prophecy messages from Jesus to children, on the subject.)**

1. (Jesus says:) When you lift your hands up high in praise, I notice and I don’t leave you empty-handed. When you lower your hands, there is always something special in them. You can’t see, but it’s a gift from Me. I never leave you empty-handed when you praise Me. I always give you something back; whatever you most need. Why do I like it when you reach up to praise Me? Because I have so much I wish to fill your heart and life with, and I can only do it when you reach out to Me in loving praise. Don’t miss your gift for the day! Thank Me for Who I am and what I have done for you. In return, I’ll bless you in a special way.

2. When the battles are rough and the frustrations are real, come to Me. Sing to Me a song of praise. Sing sweet songs of thankfulness and praise. Sing the clouds away. For as you do, My light will break through and I will make a way for you.

3. If you lift up your voice in praise to Me, I will give you grace and strength. I will make the mountains melt away. So praise Me, thank Me by faith and as you do, you will see miracles. Only lift up your voice in praise and thanksgiving for that is calls Me swiftly to your side to help you.

4. You ask, how can I please You, Jesus? I say, “Sing to Me with the voice of praise! Sing to Me with the voice of joy! Sing your praises to Me!” I love to hear your words of praise and thanksgiving. I love to hear your happy words of praise and joy. Please give them to Me because I long to hear them.

5. I love to hear you singing and praising and making melody in your heart. As you draw near to Me in praise, I will draw ever so near to You. As I do, I will bless you with peace and happiness, joy in your labours, and glory in your tasks. Praise is the secret potion that brings you all these things. Let praise be your focus and your life will be filled with happiness and joy.

**(5 Short true story, or object lesson or reflection, on the subject.)**

1. 2 Chronicles Chapter 20 tells about a huge army of three kingdoms that had united to attack Jehoshaphat, the king of Israel. Jehoshaphat was very worried because his soldiers were no match for this mighty army. So Jehoshaphat prayed desperately: “Oh God, we have no power against this great army. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You!”

Then one of the priests prophesied, “Fear not, nor be dismayed. Tomorrow go out to face them, and the Lord will be with you.”

When Jehoshaphat heard these words, he began to praise God. The next morning, the king appointed singers to march in front of the troops, singing as they led them into battle. No sooner had the singers begun to sing and praise, then the Lord set ambushments against all of Jehoshaphat’s enemies and destroyed them.

The power of praise is miraculous! Whenever we’re faced with problems that seem too big for us to handle, we can trust the Lord, believe His promises, and praise Him. Then we’ll see victories. Praise is the voice of faith! Keep praising, and you’ll see miracles, too!

2. A famous composer, Joseph Haydn was once asked why his music was so cheerful. He replied, “When I think about God, my heart is so full of joy that the notes dance and leap, as it were, from my pen. Since God has given me a cheerful heart, I desire nothing more than to serve Him with a cheerful spirit.”

3. David wrote Psalm 18 when God delivered him from all his enemies and from Saul. It is a praiseful declaration made in a moment of great triumph. David had lived for 20 years as a fugitive from Saul. --Ever since he was taken from the sheepfold and anointed to be the future king of Israel. In spite of all his trials and difficulties, David remained steadfast to the Lord; and in His time, God delivered David and fulfilled the promise of his anointing. In the first three verses, David lists eight different names honoring God. See if you can find them all.

I will love You, O LORD, my **strength**.
The LORD is my **rock** and my **fortress** and my **deliverer**;
My God, **my strength**, in whom I will trust;
My **shield** and the **horn** of my salvation, my **stronghold**.
I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy*to be praised;
So shall I be saved from my enemies.

I will love You, O LORD:

This Psalm is a *flood* of praise and emotion. The word for ‘love’ that David uses is full of emotion: “I love You from my heart strings.” He can’t say enough about the great things God has done for him. --No wonder David praised God with all his heart!

4. Virginia Brandt Berg was a great woman of God who won many souls and had an important healing ministry. Before that happened, though Virginia went through a long period of sickness. God used that sickness to work in Virginia’s heart because she was an atheist. She had a car accident that left her paralysed for five years. The doctors tried everything to cure Virginia but they finally gave up, saying it was hopeless. Her husband, Hjalmer, never stopped praying for her. Still, nothing happened! In fact, it seemed that she was soon going to die.

One day, Virginia thought about some verses in Romans: “Abraham gave glory to God, knowing that He was able to perform that which He had promised” (Romans 4:20-21). She decided to do likewise. She began to whisper, “Glory to God! Glory to God!” over and over. She began thanking God for restoring her health by faith. Suddenly, she noticed both her arms were lifted praising the Lord! She started laughing and crying at the same time, weeping with joy! Then Virginia got out of bed and began to walk for the first time in five years!—A human impossibility! She had been instantly raised by the hand of God on that memorable night in 1918! -- All because Virginia set her mind to praising and thanking God by faith!

5. One night, God’s apostles, Paul and Silas, were in prison. They shackled and chained to the wall of their cell so they couldn’t even lie down and sleep. But Paul and Silas kept right on praising God.  They sang and praised all night long and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly around midnight, there was a great earthquake! It was such a huge earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. All the doors of the cells fell open and everyone’s chains were unfastened. God sent that earthquake to rescue Paul and Silas.  It was such a big miracle that the jailer and all his family came to know Jesus that very night. Acts 16:25-26

We have a choice every day.  We can either live absorbed in worry and stress, or we can look up to Jesus, the One Who holds us in his hands. God longs for us to know the power of His presence in our lives.  He desires to bless us more than we could imagine. Praise paves the way for God's power and for miracles to happen.

**(5 Prayers & praises on the subject.)**

1. Dear Jesus, I praise You with all my heart. I praise You for your faithfulness, and your great power and love. I confess my need for You right now. My life doesn’t go so well when I just spin around on my own. Thank You for Your presence. Thank You for Your care for me. Please draw me close to You, and to work Your purposes through me. Please help me to always praise You.

2. I praise You, Jesus! You are My King, my Lord, my Creator! I sing with all my heart and raise my hands in praise to You. You have given me life, love, joy and peace. You freely give me all things. I praise You, I honour You and thank You!

3. I praise You, Jesus, and give You glory. I praise You for the beauty of Your creation. All that I see, from the smallest atom to the universe, You have created it all. You are so great and mighty and vast, yet You to stoop to love me and bring me into Your Kingdom. For this, I give You praise and honour from the depths of my soul.

4. You are the joy of my heart, the rejoicing of my soul, and the light of my life. Thank You for reaching into my soul and opening the windows of Heaven on my life. You came into my heart and now I have joy everlasting. Thank You, Jesus! You are the light of my soul and the joy of my heart.

5. I love to take praise time and give You my love even though my words are weak and small. Even though I’m not very good at it, I feel so happy when I praise You. I know it makes You happy and it pleases you.

 **(5 Quotation from others, or hymn portion, or poem portion on the subject—names of who wrote it, or “author unknown” if don’t know.)**

1. Christ takes no more delight to dwell in a sad heart than we do to live in a dark house.

2. Thou who hast given so much to me,

Give one thing more--a grateful heart;

Not thankful when it pleases me.

As if Thy blessings had spare days,

But a heart, whose pulse may be Thy praise!

 *George Herbert*

3. Flowers rejoice when night is done,

Lift their heads to greet the sun;

Sweetest looks and odours raise,

In a silent hymn of praise

So my heart would turn away

From the darkness to the day;

Lying open in God’s sight

Like a flower in the light.

 *Henry van Dyke*

4. Praise Him when the sun is shining,

When the winds of trouble blow,

When you see no silver lining

On the clouds that hang so low.

Praise Him when your load is heavy

And the day no comfort brings,

Then your burden God will carry,

Bear you as on eagles’ wings.

God delights to have us praise Him,

And believe His holy Word;

And He knows them that trust Him,

For they always praise the Lord.

 *Ida A. Gulrey*

5. The Christian should be a Hallelujah from head to foot.

 *St Augustine*

**(10 Bible verses or portions on the subject)**

1. Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to His excellent greatness!”  Psa. 150:2

2. My tongue shall speak of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long." Psa. 35:28

 3. Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. [Psalm 103:1](https://dailyverses.net/psalms/103/1/kjv)

4. Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise and with Thy honour all the day. [Psalm 71:8](https://dailyverses.net/psalms/71/8/kjv)

5. O give thanks unto the Lord. [Psalm 105:1](https://dailyverses.net/psalms/105/1/kjv)

6. Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. [Philippians 4:4](https://dailyverses.net/philippians/4/4/kjv)

7. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. [Psalm 118:24](https://dailyverses.net/psalms/118/24/kjv)

8. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God --Isaiah 61:10

9. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. [Psalm 119:14](https://dailyverses.net/psalms/119/14/kjv)

10. The joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10b