



## What About Praise?

Psalms 9:1: (KJV) *I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works.*



Over the past several weeks we have been focusing on a lot of heavy stuff - the Middle East meltdown, the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and Islam. Through it all we have tried to maintain a focus on the goodness and plan of our Almighty God, continually reminding ourselves that He not only knows the turmoil of our world, He also has a concrete plan to bring us through it. This realization brings us to a very unique place, considering the world's condition - it is a place where praise and gratitude can and should flourish. So stay with us as we are focus on just those things - praise and gratitude.

### What is praise?

General dictionary definitions tell us that praise means:

1. An expression of approval or commendation;
2. The glorifying and honoring of a god, ruler, hero, etc.

Praise is relevant in many areas of life: Family, friends, co-workers, students, teachers, soldiers, medical workers, employees, employers, athletes, artists, builders, designers, volunteers, leaders and followers, lawyers and even politicians can all be deserving of praise at times.

Whom do we praise - what do we praise - why do we praise - when do we praise - where do we praise and how do we praise - all are important considerations.



### "I Will Exalt You," Hillsong

*I will exalt You - You are my God - My hiding place - my safe refuge - my treasure, Lord, you are - My friend and King, anointed one, Most Holy, Because You are with me - I will not fear.*

### Whom do we praise:

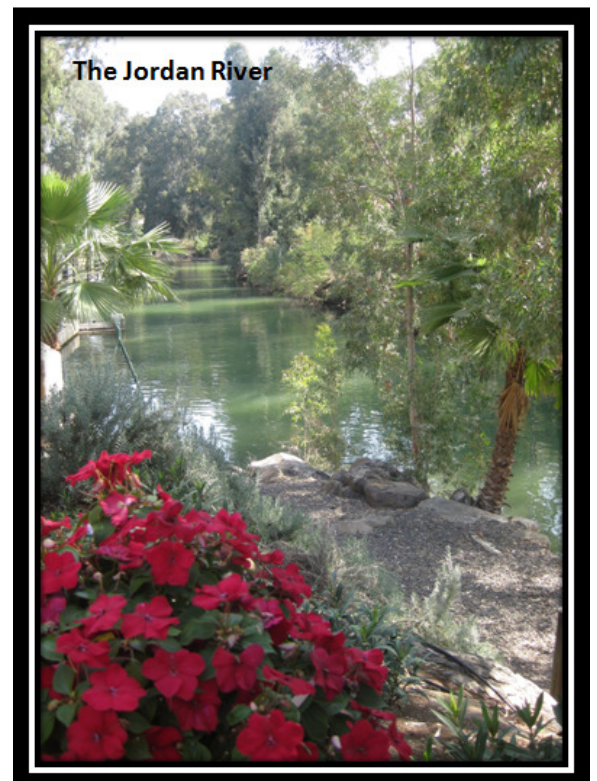
Psalms 63:1: (NASB) *O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

### What do we praise:

Psalms 63:2: (NASB) *Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.*

### Why do we praise:

Psalms 63:3: (NASB) *Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You.*





### When do we praise:

Psalms 63:4: (NASB) *So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.*

### Where do we praise:

Psalms 63:6: (NASB) *When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches...*

### How do we praise:

Psalms 63:7,5: (NASB) *<sup>7</sup>For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. <sup>5</sup>My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.*

### Does who we praise change how we praise?

Psalms 86:12: *I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.*

### Four points on discerning genuine praise:

1. True praise and flattery are entirely different things... Praise has depth and flattery does not.

Matthew 23:5-7: (NASB) *<sup>5</sup>But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. <sup>6</sup>They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup>and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.*



A phylactery, worn on the head during prayers by observant Jews

2. When we seek praise, it is because of our own self-centered attitude. Don't be in a position of looking for the praise of others.
3. When we give insincere praise, it is just empty flattery and often self-serving.
4. Praise therefore, is real, humble and is very powerful both for the giver and the receiver.

The following is a beautiful example of true praise - the writer was David, a man after God's own heart:

 **A Majestic God - Psalm 8, [What is Man? BluefishTV.com](http://BluefishTV.com)**

Psalms 8:1: (NKJV) *O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens!*

These Psalms start with the biggest picture imaginable - glory above the heavens.

Psalms 8:2: *Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.*

They then take us to the smallest and weakest human form to see God's will.

Psalms 8:3-4: *<sup>3</sup>When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, <sup>4</sup>What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?*

We compare the two extremes in awe - this is praise!



**Psalms 8:5:** *For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.*

We realize the miraculous gifts humanity is given. We are given the ability to think, choose, and not just be instinctive.

**Psalms 8:6-9:** *<sup>6</sup>You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, <sup>7</sup>all sheep and oxen—even the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas. <sup>9</sup>O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!*

We realize the responsibility we are given and look to our God for the guidance to fulfill it!

### How may our lives be a living praise to God?



A pathway on Mt. Carmel, Israel

**Psalms 16:1-2:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You. <sup>2</sup>I said to the LORD, You are my Lord; I have no good besides You.*

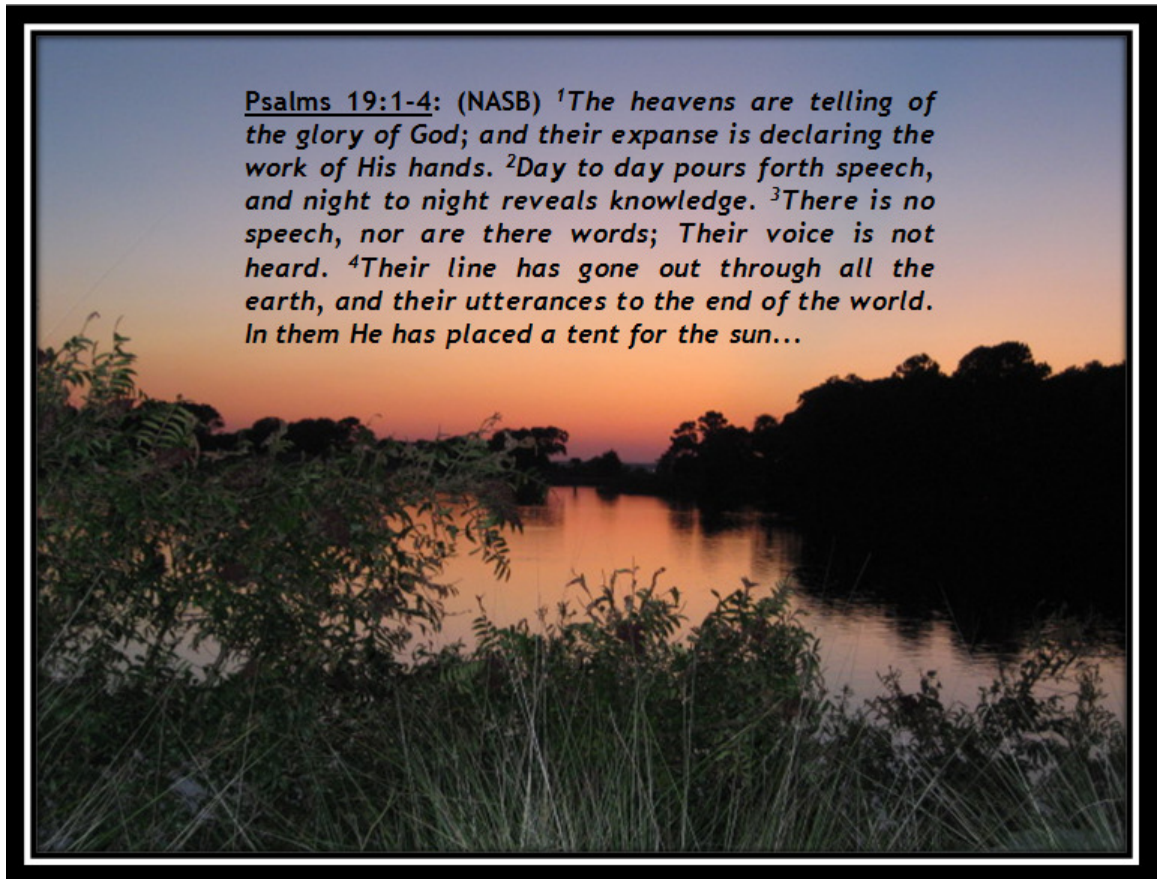
**Psalms 16:7-8:** (NASB) *<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night. <sup>8</sup>I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.*

We have to set and then reset God in our minds by our focus.

**Psalms 16:11:** (NASB) *You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

 Chisel our lives, Amena Brown - [BluefishTV.com](http://BluefishTV.com)

- *Your word on our hearts - your name on our lips;*
- *All of who You are is just too much for us;*
- *It amazes us that a God who could so easily overtake us, takes us, breaks us and makes us more like him;*
- *Every day you chisel our character - changing the picture of our lives by the brushstroke.*



Psalms 19:1-4: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. <sup>2</sup>Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup>Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun...

The *silent* glory of the heavens shout aloud to the power and glory of God!



Your Masterpiece, *Amena Brown*, [BluefishTV.com](http://BluefishTV.com)

- *You want us to be your masterpiece;*
- *So we lay down our selfishness - all agendas;*
- *We take up heavy crosses - we take sips of the bitter cup of denying self and we cry out to you;*
- *We need you to heal our land;*
- *We want you to scatter us like seed that every soul in this world would know your eternity.*

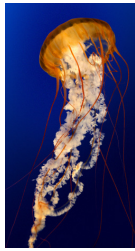


Conditions for the healing of the land. God does not need our praise, we need Him.

2 Chronicles 7:14: *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

**To live a life of praise, remember these things:**

Psalms 19:7-9: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.



God's glory is unique and rightly so.

Isaiah 42:8: *I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another...*

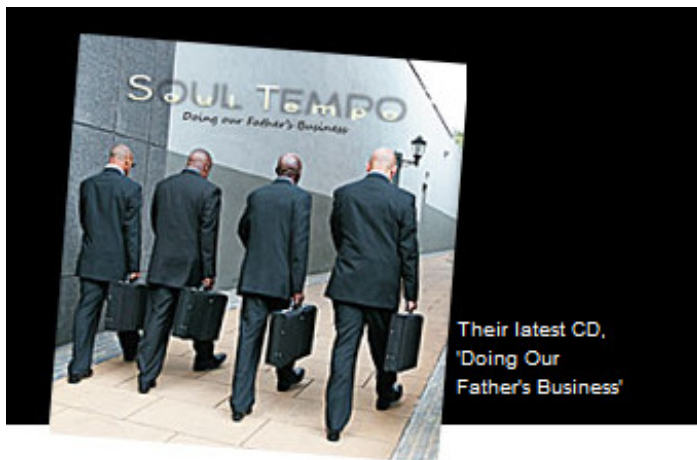
Luke 11:2: *...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy name...*



### We should adopt this outlook:

Psalms 19:10-14: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>*They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.* <sup>11</sup>*Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.* <sup>12</sup>*Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.* <sup>13</sup>*Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression.* <sup>14</sup>*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.*

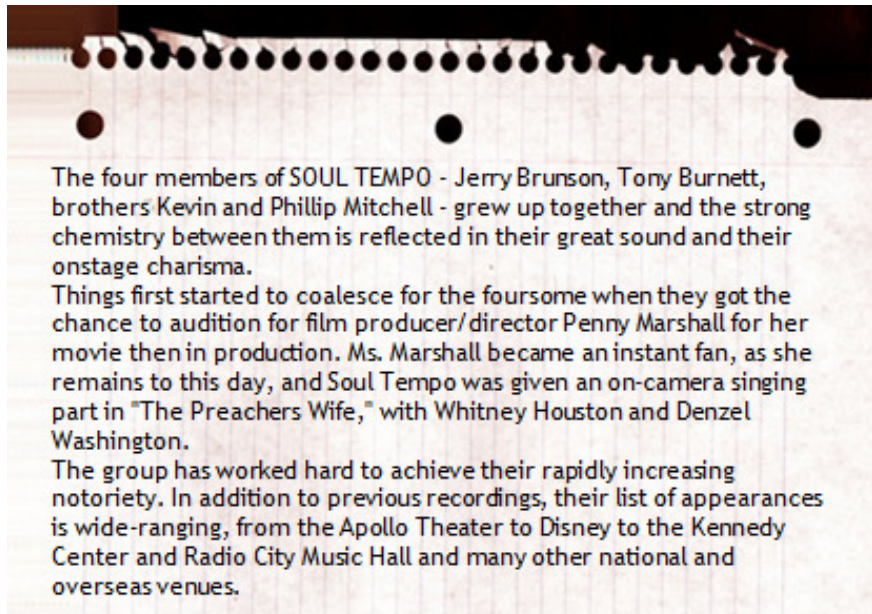
[www.soultempo.com](http://www.soultempo.com)



*Jerry Brunson, Tony Burnett, Kevin and Phillip Mitchell*

The cover of their CD shows them in suits, walking away from the camera, briefcases in hand. When I first saw this cover the message was clear - it's not about them, it is about our Father's business. What better way to focus on praise than to have these four here with us to sing praises to God!

Psalms 101:1-4: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*I will sing of lovingkindness and justice, to You, O LORD, I will sing praises.* <sup>2</sup>*I will give heed to the blameless way. When will You come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.* <sup>3</sup>*I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.* <sup>4</sup>*A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil.*





Rick: "What is your mission?"



Soul Tempo: "To touch everyone and spread the word of the Gospel throughout the entire world."



"He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother," Soul Tempo

**Psalms 95:1-6:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. <sup>2</sup>Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. <sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods, <sup>4</sup>In whose hand are the depths of the earth, the peaks of the mountains are His also. <sup>5</sup>The sea is His, for it was He who made it, and His hands formed the dry land. <sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

**How can you tell if your life is a book of living praise?**

**Philippians 2:3-4:** (NASB) <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup>do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

*What God have you chosen to praise? There are lots of mighty ones and mighty things in this world.*

*What does your heart tell you? Your praise follows your heart.*

*What do your words tell you? What kinds of things do you say on a regular basis? Your words will reflect what you praise in your life.*

*What do your actions tell you? What you do in your life reflects the things you praise.*

*What does your home tell you? Look around your house and see what's in it. It tells you what is important to you.*



"Let it Be," Soul Tempo



Soul Tempo is (from left) Anthony Burnett, Jerry Brunson, Kevin Mitchell, and Phillip Mitchell.



**Philippians 2:5-11:** (NASB) <sup>5</sup>Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>For this reason also, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This shows us the humility of Jesus, coming from heaven to accomplish a mission that would eventually praise and honor God.

We need to be praising!



"Amazing Grace," Soul Tempo

**How can we praise God right now?**

**Praise to God through our actions!**

**2 Corinthians 9:10-15:** (NASB) <sup>10</sup>Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; <sup>11</sup>you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup>For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, <sup>14</sup>while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Praise is contagious! We can sow seeds of goodness and righteousness for others that will in turn encourage them to praise as well. We have the ability to create in others their giving thanks to God.



"The Lord's Prayer," Soul Tempo

**Psalms 100:1-5:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. <sup>2</sup>Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. <sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. <sup>4</sup>Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. <sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations.

Maybe things are not perfect in your life, but start changing it by looking at something bigger than you are - the glory of God!

**So, what about praise?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!**

**And now even more to think about...  
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!**





### **Praise from the time of Daniel, from Daniel himself:**

**Daniel 2:19-23:** (NRSV) <sup>19</sup>Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night, and Daniel blessed the God of heaven. <sup>2</sup> Daniel said: Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are his. <sup>21</sup>He changes times and seasons, deposes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. <sup>22</sup>He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him. <sup>23</sup>To you, O God of my ancestors, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and power, and have now revealed to me what we asked of you, for you have revealed to us what the king ordered.

### **From King Nebuchadnezzar after his pride caused him to fall mightily:**

**Daniel 4:34-37:** (KJV) <sup>34</sup>And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: <sup>35</sup>And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? <sup>36</sup>At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. <sup>37</sup>Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

### **Notice the trend upward in this Psalm:**

**Psalms 86:1-12:** (NKJV) <sup>1</sup>Bow down Your ear, O LORD, hear me; For I am poor and needy. <sup>2</sup>Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You! <sup>3</sup>Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I cry to You all day long. <sup>4</sup>Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. <sup>5</sup>For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. <sup>6</sup>Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. <sup>7</sup>In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, for You will answer me. <sup>8</sup>Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works. <sup>9</sup>All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name. <sup>10</sup>For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God. <sup>11</sup>Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. <sup>12</sup>I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.

Verse 1 I am poor and needy.

Verse 2 I am your servant.

Verses 3-6 I cry unto you.

Verse 7 I call in trouble and you answer.

Verse 8-9 You are above all - all nations will worship you.

Verse 10 You are unique.

Verses 11-12 I am yours to teach and I will glorify you forever!





(Source: [Allaboutprayer.org](http://Allaboutprayer.org)) I'll praise God, but does He need my praise? Does He have any needs at all? The Bible is very clear when it presents God as perfect and without any needs! Acts 17:24-25 says, "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else."

So why do we praise Him if He doesn't need it? Doesn't He have angels to worship Him?

- God delights in the praise of His creation! Psalm 149:3-4 says, "Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp. For the LORD takes delight in his people..."
- When we praise, we are being obedient to God. Psalm 150:2 says, "Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness."
- Praise helps us see and understand God in a deeper way! We take our eyes off of our circumstances and put them on the Creator of all things! Psalm 150:1-2 says, "Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness."
- Praise puts the credit where it belongs. When we fail to praise, we often take the credit instead of giving that credit back to the true Source of all blessings. Ephesians 1:3 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."
- Worship brings peace. Fear cannot survive in praise and worship! We remember that we are God's child and He is in ultimate control of our lives! 2 Corinthians 1:3 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort..."

I pray that you can echo Psalm 71:14, which says, "But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more." Is that your desire? Do you want to always praise God more and more?