



The Role of Praise in Prayer



Over the years God has expanded my understanding of prayer and my attraction to the dynamic of prayer has grown by leaps and bounds. This was something I was created to do! I had the assurance that God designed, initiated and inspired prayer to play a powerful role in my life and He gave an abundance of promises to base my prayers on.

The plethora of promises God extends to us could easily cause us to

be carried away with desire! It could be so easy for His promises to become our focus and motivation.

But I am so grateful that God clearly revealed another life-changing truth that has brought balance to my prayers. In fact, this revelation has never failed to be uppermost in my prayers ... **He** is the One I seek - His promises are mine in His time.

I saw the verse in Psalm 37:4 in a new way! ***"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."*** I now saw that as I delight in the Lord, He gives (plants) good desires in my heart in order to give them to me when the time is right!

Hebrews 11:6 tells us: ***"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Him must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*** How important it is to have a heart that seeks Him!

One day I was blown away by a verse in the Psalms: ***"The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God."*** Psalm 14:2 His heart is longing for us to seek **Him!**

In His infinite wisdom God knows how much more we need **Him** than we need His promises. **He** is the One our hearts are really seeking. The gifts and the promises He gives are but a tiny measure of who He is. They are what He does, but **He IS!**

He **IS** my Redeemer. He **IS** the giver of all good things. He **IS** wisdom. He **IS** Love and Life itself. **He IS**, and nothing is more important!

He **IS** the lover of my soul and longs for me to know Him. He **IS** worthy of all my attention and my praise!

These truths elicit praise from my heart! Therefore, when I pray, my first focus has become the Lord. As I simply consider Him my heart fills with praise! Praise increases my faith! Praise changes my prayers! Praise changes me!

Praise plays a vital and essential role in prayer.

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