

Praise Him in this Place

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20).

“This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD” (Psalms 102:18).

“Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD...” (Psalms 150:6).

When categorical doctrine from the Word of God is preached thoroughly and precisely on a given theme, as hearers, we are very responsible. The subjects of praise and worship are lightly esteemed by some believers. Others have placed an inordinate value on their expressions of praise and worship based on natural tendencies and moods. But, the worship God desires is in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

The Lord designed us to have healthy emotions, but our praise must go beyond expressions worked-up through soulish emotional response. Praise that glorifies God comes from a continual attitude of thanks that can well up from a prison in the darkest night (Acts 16:25).

Let God impart His thoughts on this subject to hearts that are being made humble and are willing to be broken so that we can be like Him in this present evil world—light in darkness, songs in the night.

Chapter One

INHERIT THE SUBSTANCE OF PRAISE

“I [Wisdom] lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: *That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures*” (Proverbs 8:20-21). Hear the message: You have *potential* to inherit a treasure now, but you need to have *substance*. “Now *faith is the substance* of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

To inherit ‘substance’ means to have the substance that comes from the Word of God (Romans 10:17), the substance that produces obedience and love. It produces what this message is all about—the reason why you and I were created: “This shall be written for the generation to come: and *the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord*” (Psalm 102:18). That’s us!

So often people get married without having substance in their lives. Consequently, they

bring their needs, their flesh, their disposition in Adam, and their natural temperament into the marriage—but they do not bring substance.

People may go into business and sales work. When they have two or three bad weeks (as a test from God), they reveal that they do not have substance. They get mad at the boss, and they become so ornery, even the angels may wish they could go away for a couple of hours—out for coffee!

Some people will say, “I’m just not the type to praise God out loud. It’s not my style.” That is not a right confession. What does the Word have to say about it? “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise” (Psalm 100:4). “Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of the saints” (Psalm 149:1). We can express it because Jesus Christ, who is *not* ashamed to call us brethren, said in His humanity (as He was about to take on His glorified body), “I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee” (Psalm 22:22, Hebrews 2:12).

Psalm 63:3 says, “Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.” Verse 5 says, “...my mouth shall praise thee

with joyful lips.” In 2 Chronicles 20:19, the children of Israel “stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.”

Five times we are commanded not to commit adultery, four times we are commanded not to kill. Five times we’re commanded not to steal, and twice we are commanded not to take the Lord’s name in vain. But twenty-one times we are commanded to praise God. Why? He created us to edify with our lips, with our mouth, to be creative in our communication, to be happy and joyous people—to be a people of praise.

The Word of God says in Jeremiah 13:11 that He caused His people to cleave unto Him “that they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory: but they would not hear.” Psalm 150:6 says, “Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord....” That includes the young, the old, the rich, the poor. Psalm 67:5 says, “...let *all* the people praise thee.” That speaks of the introvert, the extrovert, the down-and-outer, the up-and-outer. Let every one, all of the people, praise the Lord!

As You Have Been Taught

There are some who argue that the stand on praise in the congregation is too emotional, and I

agree that there are movements that put more emphasis on praise than they do on receiving doctrine from the pure Word of God. Yet, here is the difference: Psalm 106:12, "Then believed they his words; they sang his praise"; and Psalm 119:171, "My lips shall utter praise, *when thou hast taught me thy statutes.*" There are so many precious verses pertaining to giving praise and thanksgiving because of instruction in the Bible. "Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, *as ye have been taught*, abounding therein with thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:7).

In other words, we are to praise Him because of categories, and because of what we have been taught! Not simply with emotionalism, but in doctrine, praise Him for the categories already in our minds that relate to specific situations we face.

God created us for Himself, not for ourselves. In Isaiah 43:21, "This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise." Psalm 4:3, "But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself...." And in Titus 2:14, God gave Himself for us and redeemed us from all iniquity to set us apart as a peculiar people unto Himself.

The Principle of Creative Communication

We were not created to get what we want in this world. Oh, we may get that, but we were created by God for one reason: to praise Him! It is not to criticize, it is not to find fault, but to praise Him. If you are in a situation and need to communicate something to deal with a problem, be creative and build the other person up as you successfully tell them what might be wrong. We call this *creative communication*. Make something good out of the situation.

God created us to be a happy, wholesome, vigorous, upright, relaxed people. Yet, in the flesh, people criticize destructively (in human evil), or they criticize “constructively” (in human good). But Spirit-filled people communicate creatively, and John 21 illustrates how this is done.

Here is Peter, backslidden; he has gone back fishing—and even after he has seen Jesus in His post-Resurrection state, Peter reveals his own sorry state. So, instead of saying anything to criticize him, Jesus says, “Peter, do you love Me more than these?”—and in the same breath—“Feed my sheep.” That removed all the pressure Peter was feeling.

“Do you love Me more than these? Feed my lambs. Do you love Me more than these? Feed my sheep.” That’s creative communication. The Lord commissioned Peter; He didn’t ask him for a thing.

In John 8:3-11, we read about the woman who was taken in the act of adultery. Jesus asked, Is there any one here who condemns you? “No, Lord.” Then, He said, “Neither do I...”—creative communication. “...Go and sin no more”—creative communication.

Why do Christians criticize others? Not one time did Jesus Christ criticize His disciples. He asked creative questions to help them see where they were coming from, but He never used “constructive criticism.” We need to learn to speak so that even if we are justified in explaining a difference we will do it creatively. It means to put the best light on the subject and make the other person feel good as you explain what’s wrong. When parents correct their children, creative communication will make them feel loved while they are being corrected.

*The Importance of Singing:
God’s Praise, God’s Way*

In 1 Chronicles 16:4-6, David appointed the

Levites to sing praises continually before the ark of God's presence. Then, in 1 Chronicles 23:5, David recounted that he taught thousands to praise God with instruments that he had made! Second Chronicles 7:6 says that David praised God by the ministry of the Levites playing their musical instruments.

In 2 Chronicles 23:13, it is mentioned that the singers in the House of God were *taught* to sing praises. God will honor a believer's gift when he lays it down in humility. Submitting to one another in love and receiving instruction in the area of praise as well as in doctrine, we will produce a sweet sound unto the Lord.

Some people are offended by lively music in the sanctuary. But 2 Chronicles 20:19 says the Israelites stood up and praised God with a loud voice.

Jehoshaphat appointed singers to "praise the beauty of holiness, *as they went out before the army*, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth forever" (2 Chronicles 20:21). The musicians were on the front lines! Then in verse 28, when the war was over, they sang praises unto the Lord.

Again we think of Psalm 106:12: They believed the Word, and then they praised Him.

And in Psalm 119:171, “My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes.” The people praised God *after* they were taught categories! They praised Him with their lips, their mouths, and with a loud voice.

Psalm 148 says that the sun, the moon, and the stars should praise Him—and He also said the dragons should praise Him. (I don’t know how that would sound, but God must know!)

Over and over again in the Psalms, the people were told to praise the Lord. From Psalm 146 to Psalm 150, “praise” is mentioned forty-four times. Are you beginning to see how much God values our praise?

Chapter Two

FULFILLING YOUR PURPOSE

Are you fulfilling the purpose for which you were created? Are you relaxed? Peaceful? You were not created to withdraw into your emotions, needs, reactions, or criticism. As mentioned earlier, there are three kinds of communication that happen when a person's behavior or attitude is being dealt with: destructive criticism (in human evil), constructive criticism (in human 'good' that is rejected by the Cross), and, finally, creative communication (in the Spirit).

Can you imagine what would happen if we were to fulfill the purpose we were made for? We would always give thanks, as we have been taught (Colossians 2:7*b*), because we have been rooted and grounded in love, giving thanks always for all things (Ephesians 5:20).

Here is something else to consider, however: It is possible to have a *good* thought, and yet if

you do not let that thought go, it will become a vain thought, which then becomes a subjective need. For example, a good thought may be that you want a wife or a husband or a baby—something that is not a bad thing in itself—but because you dwell on it so much it becomes vain and subjective. It is possible that after you get what you want that you would try to possess it and end up destroying the relationship.

Real Rest and Relaxation

In Proverbs 8:20-21, those who love God and allow Him to lead in the way of righteousness will “inherit substance.” We inherit substance when we respond to God’s first love. We don’t lose the substance of the Word of God in our thoughts and emotions or in our communication and responses. Don’t lose the substance of the Word that you inherited!

We were not created to have sex outside of marriage. We were not created to stimulate ourselves or to “unwind” artificially by using drugs or alcohol. The terrible thing is that if you do those things, you will never be satisfied. You will always need *more*.

But if you are relaxed and the joy of the Lord is your strength, and if you really have sub-

stance from the Word of God and the love of God is dwelling richly in your heart, *then you are fulfilling the purpose for which you were created!*

I love Psalm 50:23, where God says, “Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me...” You simply start praising God in everything. Wherever you are, whatever you’re doing, whoever you are with, whenever you think of it, *do what God says!* “Let *everyone* that hath breath praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6). Let *all* the people praise the Lord (Psalm 67:5). Regardless of your natural temperament or disposition—whether you are quiet and subdued, wealthy or poor—praise Him with your mouth! That is the Word of God. Why, even the trees and all of His creation praise Him.

Some people never fulfill the purpose for which they were created. And if those people were absolutely honest about it, they would agree. If we don’t praise the Lord with our mouth, with our lips, with instruments, and with our singing in the congregation, there is only one reason why: We simply do not believe what the Bible says about praise.

Fill Your Mouth with Praise

When you praise God, you’re not cursing, you’re not being negative about your marriage,

you're not worrying about your finances or your health. Putting on the garment of praise takes away the spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3)! Having a bad day? Praise the Lord—it's going to be better in the hours to come.

God will cause those who love Him to have *substance*, that they may inherit substance (Proverbs 8:21). People who live in immorality have lost their substance. People who are hateful to one another have become lost to the reason they were created. Because they have lost their substance with God, they are not fulfilling their potential with the Treasure inside—Jesus Christ. And *that* is why we were created!

Praise God *in* everything, *for* everything. Instead of crying and acting like a spiritual infant or acting like the world is coming to an end because you had three bad problems, shout and praise God. And unless you're going to praise God, *keep quiet!* But having substance means that the Word of God is operating *inside of you* through the grace of God and the love of God.

The Place for Subjective Love

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us...” (1 John 4:10), and “We love him, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). *God*

loves you! Now, you need to allow the Holy Spirit to shed that love abroad in your hearts (Romans 5:5). In return, you will have an objective love for God which becomes personal. He has His love; He gives you His love; you have His love; you respond to His love. As a result, you both have a personal love for each other. It becomes a personal relationship through personal obedience and personal praise on your part.

Even if you are married to someone who doesn't have this personal love, it doesn't matter. Although you cannot have objective personal love for your partner (meaning love doesn't *flow* between you because only you have God's love), instead you have the subjective love of God. It doesn't become personal, but it is subjective because it comes from God and is *given* to the one who cannot give it back.

Likewise, we have this same provision to love our enemies and to love the lost. *It is the supernatural love of God that flows from you like a river, without any person causing it to flow but only God.* As that river flows out of your emotions and out of your soul to the glory of Jesus Christ, you rejoice always (Philippians 4:4), and you "count it all joy when you fall into divers temp-

tations" (James 1:2).

When you give thanks *in* everything and *for* everything, you are a happy, wholesome person. You don't go around in your natural temperament with a strange countenance, confessing how you *feel*. No! You were created to praise the Lord!

Often in a message like this, people begin to feel condemned for their lack of praise or to strive to somehow produce it. But praising God is something we *learn* to do—*from the Word*, not because of an emotional movement. We all desire to grow in this area, and to do that, we need to practice it. If you are naturally soft-spoken, just say "Praise God for today!" You can just praise God for the weather.

It is beautiful when the emotions are overcome with joy and praise with thanksgiving as evidenced in the second chapter of Acts. The result? "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized....And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple, breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God....And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:41-47).

Chapter Three

PRAISE THAT REVEALS RIGHTEOUSNESS

“This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD” (Psalms 102:18). They shall be created to praise the One who made them. This speaks of a right relationship between the creature and the Creator.

“But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel” (Psalms 22:3).

“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant” (Psalms 25:14).

As believers, we gather together to see the Lord Jesus proclaimed. And though we may have phenomenal love and appreciation for the Word of God, many of our problems stem from not having an attitude to fulfill the purpose we were created for. We were created to praise the Lord! And the Word says so beautifully in Psalm

106:47, we will *triumph* in His praise.

Psalm 7:17 says that we should praise Him according to His *righteousness*. Think of that! It is the gift of righteousness that gives us positional truth and eternal security, protecting our hearts and producing such quietness, tranquillity, and peace.

Imagine if you were alone for an hour and you were able to think upon every aspect of God's righteousness. Can you imagine the result? "My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day....I will go in the strength of the Lord God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only" (Psalm 71:15-16). We praise Him for imputed righteousness that is posted to our account, and for imparted righteousness that comes from God to protect us from self-righteousness.

We have God's righteousness. Any one of us can make the difference. Imagine, just ten righteous people could have prevented Sodom and Gomorrah from being judged.

The Greatness of God in Divine Appointments

Psalm 107:8 says to praise the Lord for His *goodness*, for His "*wonderful works* to the children of men." Recently we received a letter from a

woman in a part of Africa where we have not yet sent missionaries. She “happened” to find a tape with a sermon about John 3:16 that I preached several years ago. After listening to the message six consecutive times, this woman was saved. Not only that, God led her to a church where the pastor has been receiving our tapes by mail and corresponds with us regularly! She could hardly believe it.

This is the message she heard; and though this illustration from John 3:16 is not unique with me, God obviously used it to stir her capacity to be saved:

For God	the greatest Lover
so	the greatest Intensity
loved	the greatest Love
the world,	the greatest Company
that he gave	the greatest Sacrifice
his only begotten Son,	the greatest Gift
that whosoever	the greatest Opportunity
believes	the greatest Simplicity
in him should not perish,	the greatest Deliverance
but have everlasting life.	the greatest Possession.

Praise Him for His excellent greatness!
(Psalm 150:2).

In a similar incident, one of our men was knocking on doors, telling people the Gospel. A young woman who answered a certain door, visibly shaken, said, "I can't talk to you now. My brother just died." This visitor said, "Was his name Tony?" She stepped back, began nodding her head and asked, "How did you know?" He told her that Tony was a member of our church who loved God with all of his heart and was going to Bible college. The men in the dorm where he had recently moved also received the shocking news that morning and announced it at the outreach meeting. Otherwise, no one could have known who was behind that door on that day, but it was definitely a divine appointment.

God is working so consistently, so continuously! He is worthy of all of our praise. The pastor in charge of our international missions department told me that \$89,000 went through his office for missionaries in one month. *I will praise the Lord for His goodness, for His excellent greatness!*

Psalm 9:1, "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart"—with all of my heart! I will not hold on to anything negative or reactionary. I refuse to give a place in my heart to become

distressed or perplexed. I will praise Him with my *whole* heart.

Psalm 115:18, “We will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. Praise the LORD.” From this time forward, I’m going to start praising the Lord because He created me; and He created me to praise Him.

*Behind the Scenes:
Spiritual Men under Construction*

So often I think of different ones in our midst whose lives behind the scenes are extraordinary. Years ago in our Bible college in Maine, I lived in a house on a little hill just behind the buildings that housed the classrooms, offices, and student dorms. Our winters were cold and we always had lots of snow. Several of the students worked long, hard jobs in factories to pay their bills. They studied hard and were involved in outreaches, and early on, many of them revealed amazing devotion to God in their manner of living.

I remember several occasions after late nights at my desk when I could see different ones out in the field or under a tree, all alone before their God—worshipping, giving praises to God on their knees, *in the snow*. They didn’t know I could see them, but I would watch them

with much gratitude and awe, to see their young lives so set apart, so fervent in their desire to be whatever God wanted of them. It was a beautiful sight.

One of those men was Tom Schaller. Today he is a missionary evangelist who is also a pastor, still serving God as faithfully and fervently as he did when he began. Often away from his precious family, he has pioneered churches in Finland and Hungary, raising up disciples after his kind who themselves have gone into places that many would never dare tread. More than twenty years later, he calls me regularly from Hungary and he will leave a message on the answering machine: "I love you so much, Pastor, and I miss everyone so much. Thanks for never quitting." He is such a sweet edifier, and he has been triumphant in his praises.

"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3). God does something special to motivate, activate, and energize those who have an attitude and spirit of praise. God does something special, because He inhabits every part of a soul through the human spirit.

It is no wonder that Psalm 22:23 says, "Ye that fear the LORD, praise him," speaking of those who reverence His presence. Psalm 22:26

says that those who *seek* the Lord shall praise him. And in Hebrews 13:15, "...let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God *continually*, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

Along with the animal sacrifices, the priests in the Old Testament would offer up sacrifices of praise when they brought in offerings from the harvest of fruit. Today, we are believer-priests; but our sacrifice isn't to bring fruit or to kill an animal. *Our sacrifice is to trust the Lord.* In everything, give thanks! For everything, give thanks! We ought always to have an attitude of praise as the sacrifice of our lips.

Following Jesus' Example

We offer the fruit of our lips as our sacrifice of praise. So when we consider the verse that says God inhabits the praises of his people, it means we are to praise Him with our whole heart—yet, so many people do not.

Guard your heart. Do not live in your personality, temperament, or circumstances. Do not live in your physical frailty, making that your frame of reference. The Word of God has promised that God inhabits the praises of His people! Get up and follow in His steps. In Mark 1:21-38, after a city-wide revival where people

were saved and healed and where demons were cast out, the Word of God says that Jesus, rising up a great while before day, “departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”

Can you picture it? Jesus wanted to be alone; and though His disciples were close, He didn’t allow them to be with Him. Jesus went to a solitary place to pray to His Father. When the disciples found Him, they said, “People everywhere are seeking you!” And He replied, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also.” That was His purpose. People were always on His heart—*always*. “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:21).

Chapter Four
THE HIGHEST FORM
OF WORSHIP

Preparing for an evening service, I was thinking: "This is another night we have for worship, another night for Him to visit." Then I was thinking of what King David said as he gazed at the beautiful stars, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; *What is man, that thou art mindful of him?* and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalms 8:3-4). Praising God for His excellent name, David was looking up.

The writer of Psalm 119:164 said, "Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments"—seven special times when he would stand alone, giving thanks and praise for the creature and the Creator.

All the heavens and the angels praise Him. The dragons from the depths of the earth were

commanded to praise Him (Psalm 148:7), and even the sun and the wind. God created everything for His glory (Isaiah 43:7) so that we would praise Him.

I encourage you not to be caught up with negativity, reactions, or details of life. Be occupied with Jesus Christ and praise Him.

The Substance of True Worship

We should train and teach our young people to have a life of praise and worship. True worship is to receive instruction through discipline in the classroom. It is to receive wisdom by listening with concentration (Proverbs 1:3-5). It is to bow down your ear to hear the precise words of God (Proverbs 22:17).

In Proverbs 1:3, after wisdom we receive *justice*, the result of the Finished Work. And after that comes *judgment*, which is now “No condemnation!”, and *equity*, the ability to discern God’s will and to know Him. Then, in verse 4, there is an unusual result of wisdom: “To give subtlety to the simple.” In the Septuagint, *simple* refers to those who have no foundation in the Word of God. They need to be taught how to worship God through categories of doctrine. Therefore, to give *subtlety* to the simple means

to teach them concentration on the Word as the highest form of worship.

That is why the Psalmist said in Psalm 119:171, "My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes." And in Psalm 56:4, "In God I will praise his word...." "Then believed they his words; they sang his praise" (Psalm 106:12). This is a beautiful picture of praising God by centering on His Word. It reveals that worship also means to be thankful that Jesus Christ is our God and Savior, that He has forgiven and cleansed us. So we worship Him in Spirit (not in flesh) and in truth. Psalm 119:151*b* says, "all thy commandments are *truth*" (from the Hebrew word *emeth*, which means categorical doctrine).

We have the wonderful privilege of learning how to fulfill worship. Is it any wonder that the Word of God says in Psalm 48:10, "According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth...." We worship God according to His name, and for the help of His countenance (Psalm 42:5). His "name" speaks of who God is: His meekness, His kindness, His patience, His long-suffering. We praise Him according to those attributes of His countenance which reveal His character because He is meek and lowly.

The Order of Worship

In Genesis 22:5, we find Abraham ready to offer his son Isaac, and what does he do? Before he offers his son, Abraham goes to worship God first. That's right; he goes to worship God's character, trusting Him to provide either resuscitation or a substitute. Abraham worshiped God! And God provided a ram in the thicket to put upon the altar.

Later, in chapter 24, we have the story of Abraham's servant going to find a bride for Isaac. In verses 26 and 27, the servant bowed and worshiped the Lord, then said, "I being in the way, the Lord led me...." In application, he was saying, "I am in the plan of God and the will of God; and *because I am in the way of God, He is leading me.*" Furthermore, by virtue of his worship, the servant declared, "As I travel, with God leading me, I want to worship the Most High, the God of Abraham."

Worship is so vital. In 2 Chronicles 29:30, the children of God sang His praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped—and it made them glad.

Please understand: The secret of the Lord is with them that *fear* Him, that *reverence* His pres-

ence (Psalm 25:14). They praise Him for what He has done, and they worship Him for who He is, which is revealed in the Scriptures that reveal His mind. He is the Lord over death, over disease, and over everything we've ever done against Him. We hear His Words and we worship His character.

The Way of Worship

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 29:2). “In beauty” means the manifestation of the resurrected ascended life toward us today. “Holiness” means to be separated unto His mind, to be separated unto the way He thinks about every subject. What a beautiful passage! We give the glory that is due the Lord Jesus Christ.

We worship God in song. We worship Him by adoring Him. We worship Him for who He is. But always, worship is done with concentration, reverence, and godly fear for what He says to us, receiving it with meekness and responding with faith.

When we have a continual attitude of worship, we will see the blessings God has provided and the vision He has fulfilled, and we will rec-

ognize how good and how pleasant it is to dwell in unity with the brethren. Of all of the attacks that come against unity, nothing can ultimately prevail because the Lord Jesus Christ takes care of that which is His—protecting, providing for, and seeing that it accomplishes what pleases Him.

As never before, worship God with all your spirit and all your heart. Worship God for His righteousness, grace, mercy, goodness; for the way He deals with us; and for the way He forgives us—*for who He is*. Worship God for His provision and for who we are in Christ.

CONCLUSION

Learn to worship in your spirit. Worship God through the Word. Then, once you worship Him for who He is, you begin to *praise* Him for everything He has given you. Praise Him for the material things, too. Praise Him for everything, and just *thank* the Lord as you look upon the creation. Think of what God does to bless His people! As He provides, he honors his own—and we were made to praise Him!

We have the spirit of praise, of worship, and our Lord Jesus Christ, praising Him for what He has done and worshipping Him for who He is, as the quality of truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit in categories.

The next time you think of God, think: “He created me—and my purpose is to praise Him.” Then, purpose to give thanks in and for everything. Know that all things work together for good because you love the Lord.

In the final summary, just as He did for

Joseph and his brothers, our God will provide for us. Though Satan meant his attack for evil, God works all things together for the glory of His praise.