

Dear brothers and sisters,

Thank you for attending “The Ministry of Praise” seminar today. I would like to welcome you to this session with a few words that will hopefully provide direction and insight into the journey we’re embarking on.

This seminar is more than an attempt to have you gather mere knowledge on the subject of “praise”. It couples said knowledge with an experience that will properly frame the way we praise God.

We are not here to rush. We are here to absorb truth, and to bask in the anointing and power of God. I will go as fast as I can, but not to the detriment of the quality of the content and of the transformational process that needs to take place today.

The most Important thing is the “praising” at the end of the session. When we finish the lesson, we will not be done. We will be praising God and ascending into the ethereal.

Ethereal:

- Relating to the regions beyond the earth.
- Heavenly
- Spiritual

I will be guiding you up and up and up. Together, we will be entering the ethereal more than we ever have in the past.

God bless,

R. E. Libby

## The Ministry of Praise: A Giving Ministry

This seminar is about giving. It's a giving ministry to God. You probably came here today to "receive", but we are actually here to learn how to "give". We are so focused on "getting" from God. We want God to heal us, to help our kids, our finances, etc. It feels like "gimme, gimme, gimme" rather than giving to God.

Today we will learn how to give God what He deserves: lavish worship. We will experience the supernatural overcoming power of our praise, and we will be equipped to crush the enemy and walk in dominion.

*Psalms 34:1 (KJV)*

*"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."*

- David is making a commitment to God. What would happen if we made this commitment?
- How are you doing with "all times"? Do you take time off? This is not a part-time job, it's a full-time ministry.

Some people temporarily experience the Spirit, however today we will learn how to perpetually flow in it.

*Hebrews 13:15 (KJV)*

*"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."*

It's interesting to think in terms of praise being a "sacrifice". Maybe the sacrifice is us, using our faculties for His glory rather than for our glory.

## He Is Worthy

*Psalms 48:1 (KJV)*

*"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness."*

While there are many benefits that we receive as a result of sending up praise, the purpose of our praise must be rooted in HIS worthiness. We do it for Him, not for us.

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*Revelations 4:11 (KJV)*

*"Thou art worthy, O LORD, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

1. Receive in the Greek: To take in order to carry away, to take what is one's own.

When we don't praise Him, we are withholding what belongs to Him.

*John 4:23 (KJV)*

*"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."*

This implies that there are "false" worshippers. There are inauthentic worshippers with a lack of passion. True worship is a choice.

Definition of Worship:

1. To kiss like a dog licking his Master's hand
2. To reverence
3. To adore

We are not "dog-like", but we should be submitted to our Master.

What kind of praise should we give to our God? The word "lavish" comes to my mind.

## Lavish Worship

Definition of Lavish:

1. Generous
2. Extravagant
3. Very Abundant

Examples of Lavish:

1. Woman who washed His feet (Luke 7:37-38).
2. Woman and the alabaster box (Mark 14:3).
3. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:8-9).
4. Solomon's Temple dedication (1 Kings 8).

## Gods Habitation

*Psalms 22:3 (KJV)*

*"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel."*

- *Inhabitest* in Hebrew: dwell, remain, sit, abide.
- Do you want God dwelling, remaining, and inhabiting your praise?

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When you Praise Him, He SHOWS UP. We don't bring God **down** with our praise, we draw Him out and He **manifests** himself. Remember, praise is not to get, it is to give. When we give God praise and we don't "receive" a blessing, maybe you're wrestling with weak praise that doesn't move God. You may be suffering from a case of lackadaisical praise; the kind of praise that is void of fervor.

When you are struggling and feeling frustrated as you are seeking God's presence... declutter! Give him a place to manifest. Don't wait on God to bless you- bless him! Offer him deeper fervor, and he will manifest and give you the breakthrough you desperately sought.

## Praise as If It's Already Done

*2 Chronicles 20:21-22 (KJV)*

*"And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten."*

What did they have to sing about? All they had to do was **believe**.

Notice: the ambushments didn't start the praise, the praise started the ambushments. They praised in faith, before the enemy attacked. This is called "faith praise".

*Joshua 6:20 (KJV)*

*"So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city."*

- We should praise as if it's already done, rather than wait for it to come.
- What came first – the praise or the victory?

## Praise Is Our Weapon

*Judges 1:1-2 (KJV)*

*"Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them? And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand."*

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The name "Judah" means praise. It was their "job". It was their identity. You and I have the same responsibility. We are all "Judah". Worship isn't something we do, its **who we are**.

*Psalms 149:1-9 (KJV)*

*"Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.*

*Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.*

*Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.*

*For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.*

*Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.*

*Let the **high praises** of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD."*

High praises:

1. Uplifting
2. Arising

*Acts 16:25-26*

*And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.*

Satan is **afraid of** and **tortured** by high praise!

God gives YOU the privilege to execute the judgement. He gives you the opportunity, because you are the one who does the praising.

## **Praise Dispels and Eradicates Heaviness**

*Isaiah 61:3 (KJV)*

*"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified."*

*Isaiah 61:3 (NLT)*

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*"To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory."*

## Heaviness:

1. To be weak
3. Faint
4. Feeble

We don't have to be weak and feeble. Just give God some praise!

*Psalms 24:7 (KJV)*

*"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in."*

- Doors = **Us!**

If you want a miracle, lift up! Don't be downcast.

We open the door when we praise. THEN, the King of Glory shall come in. Want Him to come in? I just showed you how.

## High and Lifted Up

Praising takes us "up". It will put us higher in the atmosphere. Higher in the heavenlies. Higher and higher! Unfortunately, many never experience this "lifting" because they are so distracted by the things of this world. Don't get so comfortable in the low places that you neglect the high places that are right in front of your eyes.

When life gets bumpy – don't come down – go up! Take an airplane for example: When a plane experiences turbulence, the pilot directs it to a higher altitude to get to smoother air. Sadly, many Christians go "lower" instead of going "higher". Do you want a smoother trip? Go up, and up, and up!

- **When we lift Him, we get lifted!**
- When we get high enough, we tap into miracles and deliverances.

*Isaiah 6:1 (KJV)*

*"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."*

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- **Who is lifting him up?**
- How high can *you* lift him?
- How high do you want to go?
- How much glory do you want to give Him?
- How much glory do you want to experience?

*Psalms 9:2 (KJV)*

*"I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most **High**."*

*Psalms 92:1 (KJV)*

*"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most **High**:"*

*Psalms 92:8 (KJV)*

*"But thou, LORD, art most **high** for evermore."*

*Psalms 97:9 (KJV)*

*"For thou, LORD, art **high above all the earth**: thou art exalted far above all gods."*