

HALLELUJAH! PRAISE THE LORD!

Psalm 116:1-19

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Why is it that we get so excited at many things and just can't retain our excitement and we wave our arms, stomp our feet, whistle, shout, yell and laugh and even cry yet seldom do we make any outward display of emotion concerning the Lord? Don't you think the world needs to hear Christians expressing outwardly their feelings for what the Lord has done and is doing for them? Wouldn't it create a bit of interest in non Christians if we Christians showed a bit of excitement in being a Christian? Think about it for a moment - what are some reasons we have to express joy and excitement openly about our great Lord?

I. THE PSALMIST GIVES SOME OF HIS REASONS FOR PRAISING THE LORD

1. He says that he loves the Lord because:
 - The Lord hears his prayers.
 - The Lord has brought healing to his body at times.
 - The Lord has gotten him out of trouble.
 - The Lord has blessed him with much.
 - The Lord has saved him from being killed.
 - The Lord was with him when he was sad and broken hearted.
 - The Lord kept him going when he wanted to quit.
2. What can we praise the Lord for as Christians?
 - We have experienced, received God's grace.
 - We have received salvation through God's Son, Jesus.
 - We are indwelt by God's Holy Spirit.
 - We have eternal life and a home awaiting us in Heaven.
 - Our own personal experiences with the Lord.
3. What Christians have received from the Lord "demands" praise and thanksgiving from them.
 - Christians should spend their lives in prayer, constant communication with the Lord.
 - Christians should care for one another and have a close fellowship with each other.
 - Christians should be actively serving the Lord at every opportunity they have.
4. What God does for the Christian's family should cause the entire family to praise God.
5. What God has done for our nation should cause the entire nation to praise the Lord God.
 - To praise God is our duty to God, to ourselves and to others. (*Psalm 146:1-2*)

II. THE PSALMIST ALSO GIVES SOME "HOWS" TO PRAISE THE LORD

1. Live the kind of life God wants His Children to live before others.
2. Accept God's Son, Jesus, and be grateful for God's grace.
3. Have fellowship with other Christians and be faithful in worship services.

4. Give sacrificially in gratitude for all God has done for you.

III. THE PSALMIST MENTIONS ALSO HOW OFTEN AND WHEN TO PRAISE THE LORD

1. Right now! Every moment.
2. We have no problem thanking God when things are going well and we have just had something great happen.
3. However, we should continue to praise the Lord, even when things are not going well.
4. Even in the time of death, for the Christian there are still many things to praise the Lord for.

IV. IS THERE A SPECIFIC PLACE TO PRAISE THE LORD?

1. We are to praise the Lord in His House, during times of worship.
2. We are to praise the Lord in our neighborhood.
3. We are to praise the Lord around the world by supporting missions.

V. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE PRAISE THE LORD?

1. When we praise the Lord, it causes growth of God's kingdom.
2. When we praise the Lord, it lessens our troubles.
3. When we praise the Lord, it creates a deeper love for God and for others.
4. When we praise the Lord, our own faith is strengthened.
5. When we praise the Lord, we are pleasing Him.

CONCLUSION:

1. If you would like to be a blessing to your family and friends, then praise the Lord for all He has done and is doing for you.
2. Whenever we praise the Lord, we are making known to others our own feelings about the Lord and then those others will perhaps become interested in our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Let us from this day on find ways to praise the Lord in an outward way that others may see how much we love our Lord God.