

## PRAISE December 2024

God is always present whether you sense Him or not. We do not feel His presence when we have turned away. This is when you need to praise Him the most. Maturity is when we do what is right whether we feel like it or not. We turn away. God never turns away. Psalm 140:13

Praise reveals solutions we could not see. We all have issues in our lives that we cannot figure out and tie us up in knots. Psalm 73:16-17 describes this kind of situation. When we have no idea what to do next, God will provide an answer while praising Him.

Praise helps us remember God's blessings. Often when we are thinking about a big problem, it is all we can think about and colors everything in our lives. That is why when you have a fight with your spouse it tends to be all you think about. Praise will correct this imbalance. It will remind you that not everything in your life is bad. Psalm 105 describes this pattern. Give thanks and tell others.

Thank God. Pray to Him by name. Tell everyone you meet what He has done.

Praise enlists God's protection. When you praise God for an answer to your prayer before it happens, that is faith-and that is when God begins to fight for you. The answer may not be what asked for. Answers can be yes, no, slow or grow. 2 Chronicles 20. We read about three enemy nations who have ganged up on Israel. The only chance Israel had was to ask God for a miracle. So King Jehoshaphat organized an unusual battle plan. He put a choir in front of the army as they marched into battle. Confusion ensued and the other armies were defeated. The Lord wants to fight your battles too, so take time to praise in advance of the battle.

Praise can also help with grief. Jesus is with us in our pain. Psalm 23

Remember to praise God in ALL things. 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18, Psalm 34:1-2, Isaiah 12:3-6, Hebrews 13:15