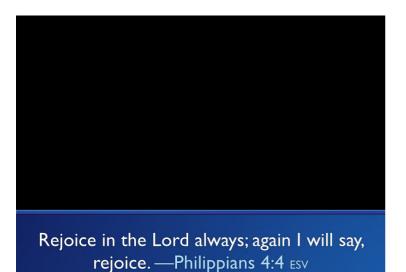


"The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works." —Augustine

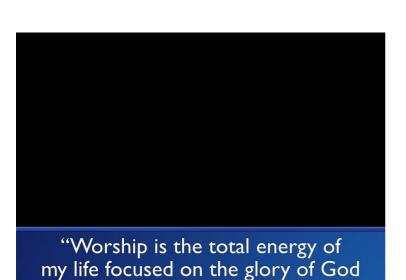
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"Joy is that serene happiness, which is the result of conscious union with God and good men, of conscious possession of eternal life... and which raises us above pain and sorrow and remorse."

—Alfred Plummer

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in all things.'

"God is glorified in His people when we offer praise in the midst of problems and pain."

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"Praise of God is a frequent theme in the Psalms, the Hebrew title of which is *Praises*. Yet praise is a theme that pervades the whole of Scripture. Words that are often used as synonyms or in parallel with *praise*, and so help point to its meaning, are *bless*, *exalt*, *extol*, *glorify*, *magnify*, *thank*, and *confess*. To praise God is to call attention to His glory."

—Baker Bible Dictionary

and Not Where I am in Life

Praise is Rooted in Who God is

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²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. —Acts 16:25-26 ESV

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³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,

so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

Praise is Reinforced Through

Fellowship With One Another

—Philippians 1:3-5, 27 ESV

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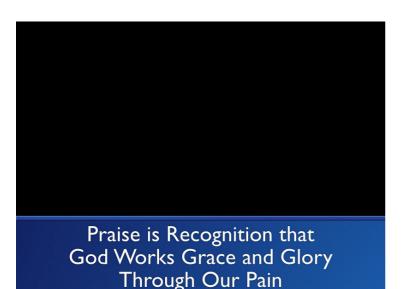
ISo if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

—Philippians 2:1-2 ESV

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

-Philippians 1:27 ESV

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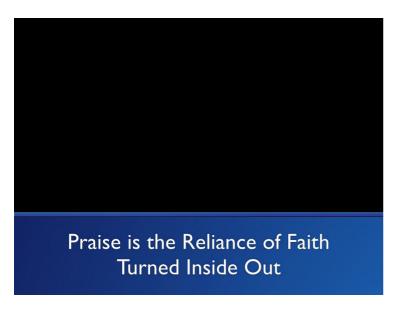
²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

-Philippians 1:29-30 ESV

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⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸Be soberminded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. —1 Peter 5:6-11 ESV

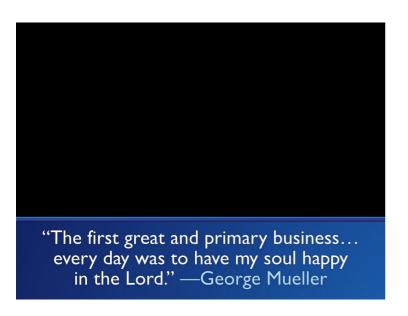
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O our God, will You not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.

—2 Chronicles 20:12 ESV

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