

Great Men of Prayer (2)
David, Praise from a man who knew God
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Introduction: What does it mean to know God?

- A. Jesus recognized this as a critical element in a disciple's faith.
 - 1. Jesus often pointed out to His disciples that He knew the father.
(Jn 10:14-15)
 - 2. Jesus wanted His disciples to clearly know God. **(Jn 14:7-9)**
- B. Another way of describing one who is lost is to say that they do not know God!
 - 1. Paul gave great emphasis to this. **(Gal 4:8; 1 Thess 4:5; 2 Thess 1:8)**
 - 2. There is a real danger of putting on a religious mask and say all the right words while not knowing God! **(Titus 1:16)**
- C. We will study a man who knew God so well that God highly praised him.
 - 1. David knew God so well as to be called a man after God's heart.
(1 Sam 13:14)
 - 2. I have no doubt that the time David spent in meditation on God's word away from the rush allowed him this great blessing.
 - 3. This knowledge showed in his praise and thanksgiving to God.

I. The wellspring of all praise and thanksgiving --- God!

- A. David knew that all good things come from God. **(Psa 28:7)**
 - 1. Praise is not an elaborate process. We are in fact confessing what God is like.
 - 2. We should not have the bulk of our prayers center in petition.
 - 3. Praise is on a higher level than thanksgiving because we are out of the picture, only God is in view.
 - 4. Praise brings you into an awareness of God like nothing else.
 - 5. Thanksgiving also allows us to be aware of God in our lives.
- B. David often praised God for Who He is.
 - 1. His power and holiness should cause us to praise Him. **(Psa 29:1-3; 33:1-6)**
 - 2. His power manifested in the creation should move us to praise. **(Psa 8:1-4, 9)**
(Ex. Trip to the Grand Canyon)
- C. David poured out his heart in thanksgiving for what God had done.
 - 1. David was often rescued out of danger. **(2 Sam 22:2-4; Psa 30:1-4, 11-12)**
 - 2. David wanted others to know this great God! **(Psa 34:1-7)**
 - 3. This knowledge makes a right standing with God all important!
(Psa 34:15-17)
 - 4. Do you know the comfort of this kind of praise and thanksgiving?

II. The Value of Praise and Thanksgiving

- A. It helps us better see God.
 - 1. How do we "see the unseen?" **(Heb 11:27)**
 - 2. When we do this we begin to "magnify God." **(Psa 35:27-28)**
- B. This knowledge of God will change our hearts.
 - 1. This first step away from God in the unthankful heart. (Rom 1:21,28)
 - 2. When we see God clearly in our worship, we become like Him.

(Psa 115:7-12)

3. Is God your hero? (Ex. A child playing baseball)
4. In this kind of prayer do we find the strength that will “keep” our hearts for God. **(Phil 4:6-7)**

“Praise is the soil in which joy thrives.”

C. Thanksgiving and praise must be chosen. **(1 Thess 5:18)**

1. Our hearts are like computers. What do we put into them?
2. There are so many things that compete for our hearts. Will we take time to be holy?
3. This is not complicated and as a result many neglect this. This is a great mistake!

III. Challenges to a thankful Heart

A. **A lack of knowledge**

1. This knowledge needs to be told to others. **(Psa 96:1-4)**
2. Do people who know you see this kind of praise?

“Praise, like sunlight, helps all things to grow. Nothing will improve a person's hearing more than praise.”

B. **A selfish heart**

1. Many cannot praise God because all they think about is themselves. **(Jas 4:1-3)**
2. If all we say to God is “give me, give me,” then we will not come to know Him.

C. **A bitter heart**

1. It is sad to see men praise God and then use their tongues to slander others. **(Jas 3:8-10)**
2. Bitterness may be disguised and painted over but in the long run you will not be able to see God. God says to let it go. **(Rom 12:19-21)**

D. **An indifferent heart**

1. We must actively seek God to maintain a biblical faith. **(Heb 11:6)**
2. There will be times when praise is difficult. It is here where we show the determination to pursue God or the slothfulness to be like the world. **(Heb 6:11-12)**

“If you find yourself wearing a spirit of heaviness, put on a garment of praise.”

E. **Our associates**

1. We need to be around men and women who are thankful!
2. It is sad to see a family learn to tolerate bitterness. They will destroy their own children as well as their own friends. **(1 Cor 15:33)**

Conclusion: What made David a great man?

A. David knew the answer. **(Psa 33:16-22)**

B. That kind of power is available to anyone here.

1. You will need to go another direction from the world! **(1 Cor 1:21)**
2. When you have a heart filled with the praise of God, you will see everything in a different light! Will you radically change your mind about God?