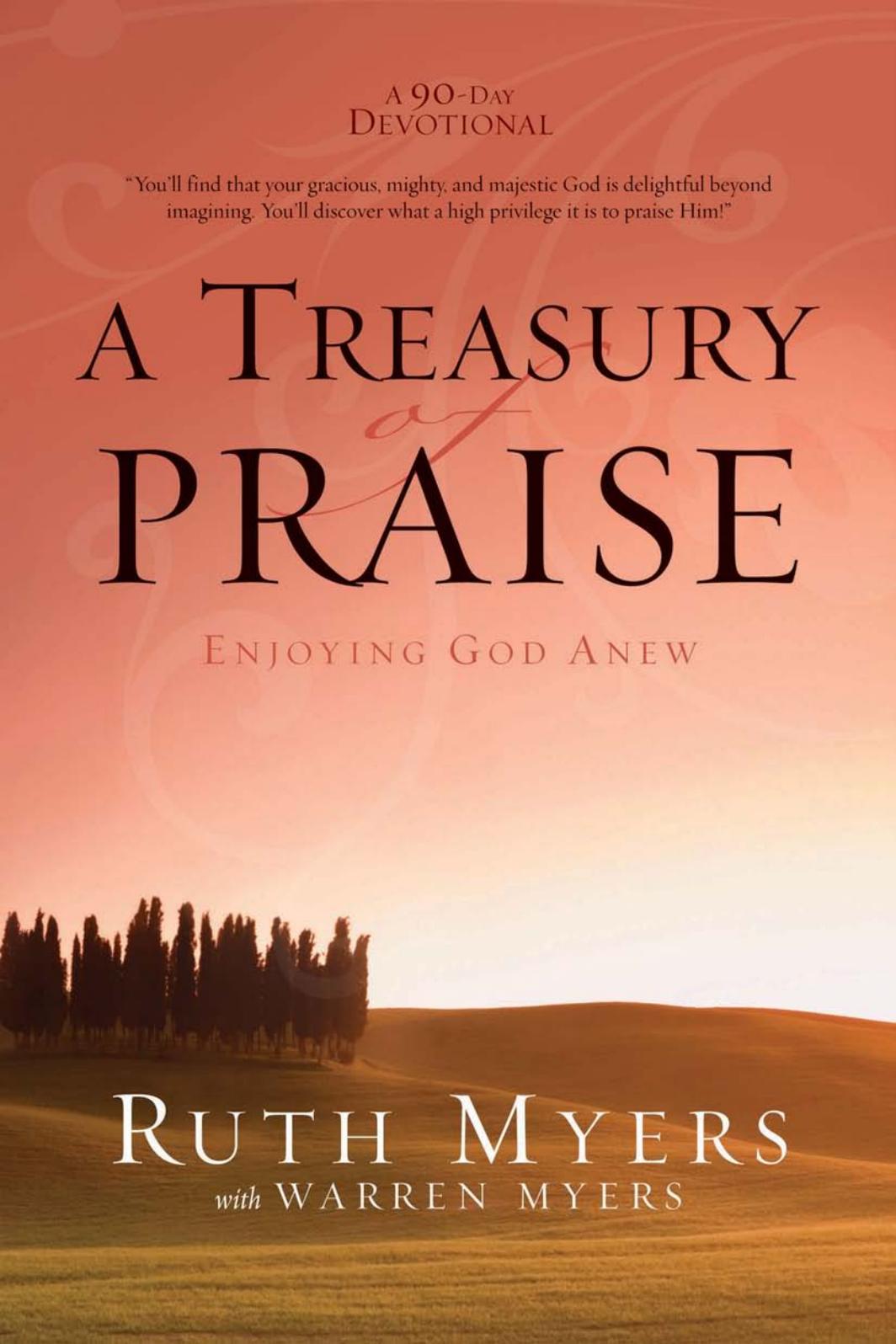


A 90-DAY
DEVOTIONAL

"You'll find that your gracious, mighty, and majestic God is delightful beyond imagining. You'll discover what a high privilege it is to praise Him!"

A TREASURY *of* PRAISE

ENJOYING GOD ANEW



RUTH MYERS
with WARREN MYERS

A TREASURY
a
PRAISE

ENJOYING GOD ANEW

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An Invitation to Praise

*I*f you're just beginning to praise and worship, you're on the threshold of a great adventure. You'll find that your gracious, mighty, and majestic God is delightful beyond imagining. You'll discover what a high privilege it is to praise Him! And whether you're a beginner or someone who has long understood the benefits of praise, you'll find that the more you glorify the Lord, the more He will refresh you and deepen your experience of Him.

Woven into this book you'll find truths about God that affirm A. W. Tozer's words: "The man who has God as his treasure has all things in one, and he has it purely, legitimately, and forever."

OUR GOAL: A LIFESTYLE OF PRAISE

The days of praise in this book have been designed to help you praise and give thanks both in your times of blessing and in your times of trial. These praise pages will expand your praise life and help you develop the practice of "giving thanks always for all things" (Ephesians 5:20, NKJV). They will help you cultivate a lifestyle of praise.

But before you begin, let's take a look at what praise is and why it's so important—why it's more than a pleasant pastime.

In the Bible, praise is closely linked with worship and thanksgiving. Through all three we honor and enjoy God. It helps me to think of

worship as a beautiful crown adorned with two brilliant jewels. One jewel is praise; the other, thanksgiving.

Worship

Worship is our greatest privilege, the highest thing we can do.

In genuine spiritual worship, we bow before the Most High God, the most merciful and reliable and winsome of all beings, and we crown Him as Lord of all that we are. We consent to His gracious, transforming work; we agree that He can work in us so that we'll be willing and able to do His will. In other words, we choose to let Him be God in our lives.

Worship includes yielding to God as our Lord and Master. We see this in Romans 12:1, where God asks us to offer Him our bodies, our lives, our entire person. This, He says, is true worship.

Praise

Praise includes adoring God and admiring Him for who He is and what He does.

Praise can be quiet and meditative. But it can also be celebrating and exulting in the Lord's majesty and splendor, His sovereignty, His limitless power, and His bountiful love—which we do not in the least deserve. In praise we extol our wonderful God; we exalt and magnify Him.

Praise includes speaking highly of God to other people as well as directly to Him.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is appreciating God and letting Him know how grateful we are for His mighty works and the blessings He bestows on us.

In thanksgiving we express gratitude to the Lord for His love and goodness to us and to others, for His constant acts of care, and for His gifts, including the spiritual blessings He has lavished upon us.

So mounted in the crown of worship—the basic act of offering God

our lives, of honoring Him as God—are the jewels of praise and thanksgiving, jewels that radiate the glory of God, to His delight and ours.

All three of these—worship, praise, and thanksgiving—overlap as we glorify and enjoy God. Sometimes we do this in speaking, sometimes in singing, sometimes in silent reverence.

It's fine if we blend worship, praise, and thanksgiving any way we like. God isn't in the least concerned if we say "Thank You" when "I praise You" or "I worship You" might be more appropriate. And it doesn't matter whether our words are stumbling or eloquent. God looks on the heart; He's searching for people who simply want to honor Him.

HOW CAN WE PRAISE GOD AND BE THANKFUL IN EVERY SITUATION?

A life of praise may appeal to you. But what does it involve? You may be puzzled about what it means to praise *continually* and give thanks always, in every situation. Won't this lead to denying your true feelings? Does it mean that when you stub your toe or hit your thumb with a hammer, your spontaneous response must be "Thank You, Lord"? Isn't it dishonest to give thanks if you don't feel thankful?

Several things have helped settle these questions for me.

It's Based on More Than Feelings

One is that the Bible doesn't command us to feel thankful in every situation. It doesn't command us to manufacture positive feelings. Instead, it commands us to give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18). As Dr. John G. Mitchell, cofounder of Multnomah School of the Bible, put it: "To give thanks when you don't feel like it is not hypocrisy; it's obedience."

This does not mean you should deny your negative thoughts and feelings and attitudes, sweeping them under some inner emotional rug. It doesn't mean you should repress them into some deep cavern where, again

and again, they can sneak back into your thoughts, press you into unwise choices, and filter past your defenses to pollute the emotional atmosphere around you.

Notice that David and the other psalmists were honest about their feelings, facing them and telling God about them. They knew how to pour out their heart before Him (Psalm 62:8). Often they praised God first and then expressed their disturbed emotions, their perplexities, even their complaints. After this they went on to praise God again, despite their struggles. They did not deny their feelings or simply ignore them. Nor did they wallow in them until they'd all but drowned. And it doesn't seem that they postponed their praise until they had worked through their emotions and felt better. Instead, they mingled an honest pouring-out of their feelings with sincere, God-honoring praise.

Take, for example, Psalm 42. The psalmist composed this song in a time of exile and oppression, when he felt deeply disturbed and downcast. People were saying, "Where is your God—why doesn't He do something for you if He's the true and living God?" The psalmist told God how troubled his heart was. But even as he did so, he honored God, speaking of Him as "the living God...my God...the God of my life...God my rock...the help of my countenance." His every reference to God showed his desire to exalt and glorify Him. And he assured his soul that the time would come when he could once again join the festal worship in the house of God and praise the Lord for deliverance. Psalm 43, written in a similar situation, likewise honors God in very special ways: "O God...the God of my strength...God my exceeding joy...my God."

What happens when we follow the example of the psalmists—when we express our impressions and feelings yet choose to keep praising in spite of how things seem to us? I find that sooner or later (often sooner) the Lord releases me from being a slave to my distressing emotions. He unties the tight knots within me and settles my feelings, though He may not answer my questions about how He's handling my affairs. And when

at times praise does not quickly bring inner freedom and joy, I can say, “Lord, I can’t praise You in the same way I did last week (or last year). I can’t seem to respond to You with the same sense of delight and celebration. But I do choose to lift You high, praising You for what You are and what You mean to me.”

Life—and praise—isn’t always a feast of pure, simple gladness. Don’t you find that in many situations you can experience both pleasant and unpleasant emotions? Like Paul, you can be “sorrowful yet always rejoicing” (2 Corinthians 6:10). You can groan and suffer in this fallen world, yet you can learn to rejoice. You can learn to triumph in your hope, in your tribulations and the good things they produce in your life, and above all, in God Himself (Romans 8:22–23; 5:2, 3, 11).

You Have Supernatural Help!

Another help in our worship (perhaps the major one) is the Holy Spirit, that wonderful Gift sent by our risen Lord to indwell us and empower us. The Lord has not set before us the ideal of a life filled with praise and then left us alone to achieve it. How could we, on our own, reach such a high goal—with the downward pull of our old fleshly patterns of living; with the pain of our trials, large or small; with our tendency to depend on ourselves and get distracted from the Lord and do our own thing? But we have the Holy Spirit! Just think of what this means!

He is within you as a fountain of water, springing up to fill you with fresh life—life that is eternal, life that is full. Through Him, time after time, you can know the refreshment that comes from the presence of the Lord. Through the Spirit you can understand the Scriptures and experience the marvelous things God has freely given you in Christ. Through Him you are linked in vital oneness with the Father and the Son and have all you need for life and godliness. You have all you need to inspire praise: comfort, encouragement, inexpressible joy, overflowing hope, strength in your innermost being, and power to love and serve.

You also have power to praise and give thanks: “Ever be filled with the Spirit...continue giving thanks for everything” (Ephesians 5:18, 20, Williams). You don’t have to beg the Holy Spirit to fill you; He is eager to do so. You don’t have to earn His fullness, proving you are worthy of it. You have only to let the Spirit fill you...to consent to live under His gracious influence and control. He then performs His amazing ministries in you. Among them: He inspires, reminds, and enables you to worship and praise and give thanks.

PRAISE NEEDS CULTIVATING

If God invites us to praise Him, if praise so enriches our experience of Him, and if we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us, why do we so easily neglect it? Why aren’t we at all times attracted to praise as bees are to pollen?

I have worshiped the Lord for many years; I know how delightful praise is and how much it stimulates my faith. So why do I ever get so busy, even in my quiet time, that I bypass the delightful opportunity to extol and adore my wonderful Lord? Why do I, time and again, get so busy and absorbed with the pressures of daily life that I forget all about praise? And why do I at times feel reluctant to praise in the midst of everyday trials: when I hear news that makes me anxious about someone I love or when I face a major disappointment or when I’m angry or under a lot of pressure?

Could it be that one of Satan’s major strategies is to divert us from praise? After all, he knows that God delights in our praise, and that doesn’t exactly make him happy. He also detests the rich benefits praise brings to us and others. Or is it simply that our flesh prevails over our spirits, dampening our desire to glorify God? Might it be some of both?

Whatever the reason, we need to pray about a lifestyle of praise, as Horatio Bonar did a century ago:

Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God,
In every part with praise,
That my whole being may proclaim
Thy being and Thy ways.
Not for the lip of praise alone,
Nor e'en the praising heart
I ask, but for a life made up
Of praise in every part.

Or as the songwriter Robert Robinson prayed:

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

In spite of all that God has provided, including the Holy Spirit's presence and power, we don't automatically praise and give thanks. Nor will you find praise all of a sudden springing up in full bloom as soon as you start praying about it. Praise flourishes as you weed and water and fertilize your spiritual garden in which it grows. It becomes more constant as you nurture your soul on God's Word and walk in His ways, depending upon the Holy Spirit. It gets richer and more spontaneous as you grow in your knowledge of how worthy the Lord is to receive honor and glory and praise.

But even then praise does not *automatically* flow from your life day after day, hour after hour. You must choose to cultivate the habit of praise, taking steps that will enrich your praise life.

As you use the daily praises in this book, you'll find that praising God is an exciting adventure that yields rich dividends. The praise readings

will help you make sense out of the hard realities of life. And—best of all—they’ll deepen your experience of how vastly wonderful God is...how loving...how able to satisfy your heart and meet your deepest needs.

How to Use the Praise Pages

*Y*ou'll find each day of praise to be a rich way both to start your morning time with the Lord and to end your day, as you review each reading before bedtime. Underline the phrases that most touch your heart. Also put a mark by the things you need to accept with thanksgiving though you do not feel like it. Ask the Lord to do a special work in your heart in these areas.

Your response to some of the topics of praise may be, "How can I thank the Lord for that?" If these are your feelings, don't decide: *I guess these praise pages aren't for me.* Instead, pray about your response. If it's simply a matter of applying differently what you've learned from the Scriptures, feel free to express your praise in other words. But if you find an emotional block in your heart, seek to open yourself to the Lord on the issue that troubles you. In case He is putting His finger on something important, come back to that day of praise often, asking Him to do a new work within you.

I've personalized a great many of the passages that are quoted or referred to in the daily readings to help you use them in praise more easily. After each paragraph is a brief list of the scriptures quoted or referred to in that paragraph. You can become enriched and refreshed by looking up these scriptures in your Bible and meditating on them either before or after your time of praise.

In a notebook or journal, you may want to write out the passages that mean the most to you, along with any other special verses or thoughts that bless you.

Most Scripture references are taken from the New American Standard Bible, although many other versions and paraphrases are quoted as well, as indicated in the Scripture lists. (See the copyright page for the complete list of versions and their abbreviations.)

In your notebook or journal you may also want to record personal items about your life situation—things that will make your praise and thanksgiving broader, more meaningful to you—both enjoyable things and those issues you find difficult or painful. They will remind you to let God into your inner experience in new ways month after month.

Use the praise pages in an unhurried way, pausing now and then to let your heart quietly appreciate, adore, or stand in awe of your wonderful Lord. Take time to delight in who God is and bask in the sunshine of His presence.

You may also enjoy using these days of praise with a family member or friend, or for small-group study and discussion. The lists of Bible verses will be helpful for small-group study and discussion as you look up and reflect on these passages together.

Don't wait until after you've enjoyed all the praise pages to read the final section in this book, "Encouragement for a Lifetime of Praise." In this section you'll learn more about the rich and exciting ways your adventure in praise will reward you—a powerful enticement to continue praising month after month. You'll also find answers to some of your questions. And you'll gain insights that will add to your delight in many of the things you'll be praising the Lord for as you go through the days of praise.

Also, you may want to return often to the first daily reading, "Offering Myself: Your Most Basic Act of Worship." Use this one to renew your commitment to our wonderful Lord.

My longing is that the Lord will use this treasury of praise to help you especially in three ways: to experience God more fully in the varied needs and situations of your life, to be an increasing joy to Him, and to bring glory to His name in new ways.

Daily Praises—Part One



Cultivating a Life of Praise

Offering Myself

Your Most Basic Act of Worship

*L*ord, I'm Yours. Whatever the cost may be, may Your will be done in my life. I realize I'm not here on earth to do my own thing or to seek my own fulfillment or my own glory. I'm not here to indulge my desires, to increase my possessions, to impress people, to be popular, to prove I'm somebody important, or to promote myself. I'm not here even to be relevant or successful by human standards. I'm here to please You.

I offer myself to You, for You are worthy. All that I am or hope to be, I owe to You. I'm Yours by creation, and every day I receive from You life and breath and all things. And I'm Yours because You bought me, and the price You paid was the precious blood of Christ. You alone, the Triune God, are worthy to be my Lord and Master. I yield to You, my gracious and glorious heavenly Father; to the Lord Jesus who loved me and gave Himself for me; to the Holy Spirit and His gracious influence and empowering.

All that I am and all that I have I give to You.

I give You any rebellion in me, which resists doing Your will. I give You my pride and self-dependence, which tell me I can do Your will in my own power if I try hard enough. I give You my fears, which tell me I'll never be able to do Your will in some areas of life. I consent to let You energize me...to create within me, moment by moment, both the desire and the power to do Your will.

I give You my body and each of its members...my entire inner being: my mind, my emotional life, my will...my loved ones...my marriage or my hopes for marriage...my abilities and gifts...my strengths and weaknesses...my health...my status (high or low)...my possessions...my past, my present, and my future...when and how I'll go home to be with You.

I'm here to love You, to obey You, to glorify You. O my Beloved, may I be a joy to You!

All You Are

*M*y heart rejoices in You, Lord, for You are my strong shelter in times of trouble and danger and stress, my hiding place to whom I may *continually* resort...my Father who lovingly provides for me...my Shepherd who guides and protects me...my Champion who upholds my cause as His child and defends my highest interests...my Bridegroom who delights in me...my God who is mighty to save, who rests in His love for me and rejoices over me with singing, with shouts of joy. You are my inheritance, my share in life, the One who satisfies my longing soul and fills my hungry soul with goodness.

Psalms 71:3; 91:1-2; 27:5; Matthew 6:25-26; Psalm 23:1-3; Isaiah 19:20; 62:5b;

Zephaniah 3:17-18; Psalms 16:5-6; 107:9

I praise You for Your love and Your wisdom. You are too wise to ever make a mistake, too loving to ever do anything unkind. You act on my behalf, accomplishing what concerns me and fulfilling Your purpose for me as I call on You. Thank You that You love me deeply and tenderly. You are compassionate and gracious, full of lovingkindness, ready to forgive, patiently considerate, and generous beyond imagining. You desire my love and rejoice to do good things for me. You delight to give me the desires of my heart as I delight myself in You. How precious is Your love to me, O God! I sing for joy as I take refuge in the shadow of Your wings!

Psalms 57:2; 138:8; 103:8; 86:5; Matthew 22:37; Jeremiah 32:41; Psalms 37:4; 63:7; 36:7

Your Son

*T*hank You, Father, that You so loved the world that You gave Your one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ...that when the time had fully come, He wrapped Himself in human form, being born as a helpless baby in a poor family. Thank You that He walked here on earth, radiating the brightness of Your glory and flawlessly expressing Your nature...and so, through Him, people saw You in action, involved with them, available to meet their needs. Thank You that He focused Your almighty power into the lives of common people with deep needs, just like me...that He preached the gospel to the poor, proclaimed freedom to prisoners of sin and recovery of sight to the blind, and set free the oppressed victims of sin and Satan—the downtrodden, the lost, the hurting, the broken. Thank You for the way He rebuked the arrogant and looked with favor on the humble-minded, opening wide the door of His kingdom to those who were destitute and helpless in spirit. I delight in Your tender mercies, O my God, by which the Sunrise from on high has come to us!

John 3:16; Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 1:3; Luke 4:18-19; Matthew 5:3; Luke 1:78

Thank You that through the Gospels I can watch this beloved One walk among ordinary people. I can hear the gracious words that came from His lips. I can see His compassion and tenderness toward needy people, His anger at hypocrisy, His faithfulness, His intense love for His followers.

Luke 4:22; Matthew 9:36; 15:32; 23:37; 23:13-33; John 13:1

Fairest Lord Jesus! You alone are my heart's desire...my chief delight... my soul's glory, joy, and crown. Every advantage life can offer is like rubbish, compared with the overwhelming gain of knowing You. You are worthy, Lord—worthy to be thanked and praised and worshiped and adored.

Psalm 45:2; Song of Solomon 5:16; Philippians 3:8 Phillips

Christ's Life on Earth

*P*raise You that the Lord Jesus lived His life sinlessly, in total accord with reality, with no falseness, no self-deception, no dark secrets, nothing to regret, nothing to be ashamed of...that He proclaimed the truth, the one utterly reliable foundation for our thinking and living. Thank You that He delighted to do Your will...that He withdrew for time alone in Your presence...that He was attentive to Your voice and sensitive to Your working...that He lived in complete dependence on You so that You in Him spoke those gracious and life-giving words and performed those mighty works.

Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 7:24-28; Psalm 40:8; Mark 1:35;

Luke 5:16; Isaiah 50:4; John 5:19; 6:57; 14:10

Thank You that He demonstrated how I am to live and serve, completely depending on Him as my indwelling Lord, focusing on His life as He walked on earth, and beholding His glory, “the glory of the One and Only” who came from You, full of grace and truth. What a delight to know that as I focus on Him, You transform me into His image by Your Spirit within me. You work in me that which is pleasing in Your eyes. You strengthen my heart in every good work and every good word so that more and more I honor Christ by the way I live.

John 15:5; 1:14 NIV; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 13:21;

2 Thessalonians 2:17; Philippians 1:20 Phillips

My Savior

I love You, Father, because You first loved me and sent Your Son to atone for my sins. And I stand amazed that Jesus, who by nature had always been God, did not cling to His rights as Your equal...that He laid aside all His privileges to be born as a human being...that He totally humbled Himself, submitting to the death of a common criminal, enduring infinite humiliation and pain...that on the cross You laid on Him the compressed weight of all my sin and guilt and shame, all my griefs and sorrows, and He became sin for me, dying the death I deserved.

I John 4:10; Philippians 2:6-9; Isaiah 53:3-12; 2 Corinthians 5:21

And how much I praise You that it was impossible for death to hold Him in its power...that You raised Him from the dead to be my Savior, to make me righteous in Your sight...that You highly exalted Him, giving Him a position infinitely superior to any conceivable command, authority, power, or control, both natural and supernatural. Thank You that He is the Great High Priest...that He is able to save me completely, for He lives forever and prays for me and for all of us who have come to You through Him. I glorify You, my Father, with gratefulness and joy.

Acts 2:24; Romans 4:24 NIV; Ephesians 1:20-22 Phillips; Hebrews 8:1; 7:25

And I bow at the feet of Him who was dead and is now alive forever and ever. I exalt Him, I yield myself to Him, for He is worthy of the

total response of my entire being: “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

Revelation 1:18; 5:12

Your Majesty and Sovereignty

*M*agnify You, O Lord, I exalt Your name, for You are great and highly to be praised. I praise You for the glorious splendor of Your majesty and the power of Your awe-inspiring acts. Your power is unlimited...absolute...beyond imagining. You are able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or dream of. “There is nothing too hard for You.” Who is like You, “majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders”?

Psalm 145:3-6; Ephesians 3:20; Jeremiah 32:17 NKJV; Exodus 15:11

O Lord Most High, You rule over the heavens and the earth, for You made all things by Your great power, and You keep them existing and working by Your mighty Word. You are exalted high above every star and galaxy in the entire cosmos...yet You are also “the God of all mankind,” the great, personally present, personally involved God who loves, rescues, and takes care of all who trust You. You exercise Your gracious authority over all nations—and over each individual in all the world. There is none like You, the true God, the living God, the everlasting King.

Hebrews 1:3; Jeremiah 32:27 NIV; 10:6-7

I praise You for Your sovereignty over the broad events of my life and over the details. With You, nothing is accidental, nothing is incidental,

and no experience is wasted. You hold in Your own power my breath of life and all my destiny. And every trial that You allow to happen is a platform on which You reveal Yourself, showing Your love and power, both to me and to others looking on. Thank You that I can move into the future nondefensively, with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead, for You hold the future and You will always be with me, even to my old age...and through all eternity.

Daniel 5:23d; Hebrews 13:5; Isaiah 46:4

Christ's Return

I magnify You, my God, for Your absolute purity, holiness, and justice, as the Judge to whom all people must give account. I praise You that Your fairness is intertwined with everything You do...that when the time is ripe, You will end all sin and injustice, all corruption, all immorality...that You will right all wrongs and reward all loving service and suffering for Your sake.

Psalm 99:3,9; Daniel 4:37; Romans 14:12; Deuteronomy 32:4;

Isaiah 2:10-12; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 6:10

Thank You that Your Son will return from heaven with a shout of triumph, that the dead in Christ will be raised imperishable...and in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, we shall all be utterly changed. We shall see the radiance of His face and the glorious majesty of His power. It will be a breathtaking wonder and splendor unimaginable to all who believe! Thank You that “whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future” You have planned for us.

1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 Phillips; Romans 8:18 Phillips

What a joy it is to know that the government will be on Christ's shoulders and that there will be no end to the increase of His government and peace...that His kingdom will be established with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. Your kingdom is an everlasting

kingdom...a kingdom that cannot be shaken. You will never be voted out; no coup will ever dethrone You. For all eternity You are the King of kings and Lord of lords. To You “be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen”!

Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 4:34; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:6; 1:6

Your Word

*G*lorify You for the Bible—that wonderful, written revelation of You and Your plan. As snow and rain fall from the skies to meet our needs, so You have condensed Your thoughts—which are vastly higher than all human thoughts—into written form. I'm so grateful that You cared enough to communicate with us in this clear, unchanging, always-accessible way so that Your thoughts are now available at all times to refresh and nourish and teach me...and that You are still a communicating God, speaking these words to me as I am attentive to You, as I read and meditate with a listening heart. What a privilege it is to store Your Word in my heart, where You can use it at any moment to bless me and guide me...to keep me from sinning against You...and to be a storehouse of inspired words that the Spirit can bring to my mind to help others.

Isaiah 55:8-11; Psalm 119:11

Thank You that in Your Word I can see Your face and hear Your voice. I can discover Your will and Your patterns for living and serving. I can develop deeper faith and confidence. Thank You that the Holy Spirit inspired Your Word and uses it to enlighten and guide me and to change me more and more into Your image, from one degree of glory to another.

2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

How I'm Created

I give thanks to You, O Lord, and I stand in awe of You, for I am wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works! Thank You that You uniquely designed and created me with the same care and precision You used in creating the universe...that You formed me in love exactly to Your specifications...that You embroidered me with great skill in my mother's womb. I kneel before You, my Maker.

Psalms 139:13-16; 95:6

I'm grateful that my looks, my abilities, and my personality are like a special picture frame in which You can portray Your grace and beauty, Your love, Your strength, Your faithfulness, to the praise of Your glory. I rejoice that You have gifted me for the special purposes You have in mind for my life. I thank You for Your loving wisdom in allowing the things that have influenced me throughout my life—the things that have prepared my heart to respond to You and live for Your glory. I might not have turned to You if things had been different!

Ephesians 1:6,12; Romans 12:3-6; Psalm 119:67,71

It's wonderful to know that You are not the least bit dissatisfied with my inborn talents, intelligence, aptitudes, appearance, and personality, for Your hands have made and fashioned me. I am one of Your original masterpieces!

Psalm 119:73

My Gifts

*I*worship before You, dear Lord, as the all-wise Creator, the One who made heaven and earth and all that is in them and saw that it was very good. I praise You for the honor of being made in Your image, personally formed by You for Your glory, and gifted spiritually just as it has pleased You. Thank You for each strength and ability and desirable trait You have given me. Surely You have been good to me, O Lord!

Genesis 1:31,27; Isaiah 43:7; Psalm 8:3-6

Thank You that I can enjoy my strengths and gifts without pride or false modesty as I give You the credit for them, praising You rather than congratulating myself. What do I have that I did not receive from You?... All that I am and all that I have comes from You; it is all sustained by You...and I want it all to glorify You! Not to me, O Lord, not to me, but to Your name be the glory.

Romans 12:3-6; John 3:27; I Corinthians 4:7; I Peter 4:10; Romans 11:36; Psalm 115:1 NIV

I specifically thank You for:



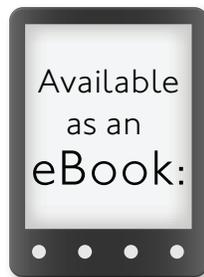
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