REVIVAL OF PRAISE AND PRAYER

PSALM 34:1-8

4/22/2012

***We need a revival of praise and prayer in our lives!**
(We must be revived in our praise life and our prayer life)

How can we be revived in the matter of praise and prayer?

I. BY OFFERING <u>CONTINUAL PRAISE</u> (V. 1-3)

A. Continually Praise Him <u>Vocally</u> (V. 1)

B. Continually Praise Him <u>Humbly</u> (V. 2)

C. Continually Praise Him <u>Corporately</u> (V. 3)

II. BY OFFERING <u>CONFIDENT PRAYERS</u> (V. 4-8)

Why such confidence? You pray in faith, believing . . . knowing:

a. You are right with God (see v. 7 "fear", v. 9, 15, 17, 18, 22)
b. You are asking according to His will

A. When You Pray Believing:
God Will Never <u>Block His Ears</u> (V. 4, 6)

B. When You Pray Believing,
God Will Never <u>Let You Down</u> (V. 5)

C. When You Pray Believing,
God Will Never <u>Leave You Alone</u> (V. 7)

REVIVAL OF PRAISE AND PRAYER

PSALM 34:1-8

4/22/2012

INTRODUCTION: Acts 16

Paul and Silas "prayed and sang praises unto God" (Acts 16:25)

There is power in prayer and praise!

We are guilty so often of being gloomy, silent, blah Christians, when we have every reason to be excitedly boastful about our God, to genuinely bubble over with praise!

Our prayers so often are few and far between: many times without even knowing who we are speaking to; or ignorant or doubtful of His power and desire to answer**.**

WE NEED A REVIVAL OF PRAISE AND PRAYER IN OUR LIVES!

(We must be revived in our praise life and our prayer life)

How can we be revived in the matter of praise and prayer?

I. BY OFFERING CONTINUAL PRAISE (V. 1-3)

A. CONTINUALLY PRAISE HIM VOCALLY (V. 1)

The title "psalms" means "praises!"

"Bless" = to kneel before God and praise Him. To adore God with bended knees (this is where kneeling in prayer comes from) (Ps. 103:1, 2).

"At all times" - in joy and sorrow; in good times and seemingly bad times; on the mountain tops and in the valleys.

It's easy to praise God when things are going great.

The test of your maturity, is if you can praise Him when times are difficult, things are not going as you planned.

You can praise God while undergoing trials because you know that endurance (patience) is being learned in the school of affliction.

Praising God is more than the repetition of a few catch-phrases or mindless cliches like saying "Praise the Lord," or "Hallelujah" or "Amen!"

"Praise" = to vocally give a clear enthusiastic testimony of God's goodness. To be excited with joy! It's like the sound you give after you pass an exam, or your football team has just scored the winning point.

"I will tell your name to my brothers, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you" (Ps. 22:22)

"Continually" = always. Not just on Sundays.

B. CONTINUALLY PRAISE HIM <u>HUMBLY</u> (V. 2)

"In the Lord" - stands first in the verse and is therefore emphatic.

Proud men boast (brag) about themselves. "I did this; I have this ability, etc." (inflated ego, "big heads" = little heart for God)

Even when God uses you, uses your strength or ability, etc., you should give Him the glory. He gave us our strengths and abilities.

The humble, because they see themselves as they really are, can be happy when they hear God getting credit where credit is due.

"Boast" - See Jer. 9:24

In verse 3 the exhortation to unite in praise is addressed to the humble of v. 2.

Don't you feel comfortable around humble people? Nothing is more repulsive than pride.

C. CONTINUALLY PRAISE HIM CORPORATELY (V. 3)

"Magnify" = make God big (we don't change the nature of God, we just display it)

True praise elevates God, not the speaker (it is telling what God has done for you, not what you have done for God)

--Moses sang: "I will publish the name of the Lord" (Dt. 32:3)

--David said: "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving" (Ps. 69:30)

--The virgin Mary said: "My soul doth magnify the Lord" (Lk. 1:46) (NOTE: she would never want herself to be magnified)

"Exalt" - to lift up God and make Him high!

"Together" - praise is to be vocal and public. We should not be ashamed to tell others what God has done for us.

The difference between thanksgiving and praise is that thanksgiving is when someone prays and thanks God for His goodness and mercy; praise occurs when the person tells someone else about it.

ILLUS: In Minnesota, when the steering went out on my VW, we all praised God in prayer. But then the next day I gave testimony at College, so that others could benefit. Praise is constructive worship. It builds up others and blesses God.

The early Church had a unity that caused them to be "praising God, and having favor with all the people . . ." (Acts 2:47)

The Bible exhorts us to "offer the sacrifice of praise to God" (heb. 13:15)

SEE I Peter 2:9.

Praise is <u>not</u> merely feeling good inside; it is to know <u>who</u> God is and <u>what</u> He does, and then to let the world know about it.

Praise God for <u>who</u> He is:

> Praise Him for His greatness (Ps. 86:10, 145:3), loyal love (Ps. 136), holiness (Ps. 99), goodness (Ps. 107:1), righteousness (Ps. 119:137), truthfulness (Ps. 138:2), great glory (Ps. 138:5).

Praise God for <u>what</u> He does:

> Praise Him for His full-complete salvation; His answers to prayer, providence, protection, guidance, healing, sustaining, forgiving, satisfying, etc.

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" (Ps. 150:6)

Praise is a "Matter of life and breath"

II. BY OFFERING <u>CONFIDENT PRAYERS</u> (V. 4-8)

Why such confidence? You pray in faith, believing:
knowing:

a. You are right with God (see v. 7 "fear", v. 9, 15, 17, 18, 22)
b. You are asking according to His will

> Unbelief is sin!

The Hebrew word for "belief" is "Amen" (cp. Gen. 15:6 - Abraham believed God)

Matt. 21:22 - "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Matt. 7:7 - "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you"

A. When you pray believing:
GOD WILL NEVER <u>BLOCK HIS EARS</u> (V. 4, 6)

David gives a personal testimony.

David came close to death when he was in Philistine territory (I Sam. 21:10-15) (NOTE: superscription of Ps. 34), but he cried to God and God heard him.

B. When you pray believing,
GOD WILL NEVER <u>LET YOU DOWN</u> (V. 5)

"They looked unto Him" -
"They" - hypothetical situation
"looked" = to intensely look with hope and expectation.
To look with pleasure.

EX: Lot's wife "looked back at Sodom with a look of affection, as she regretted to leave it, and couldn't possibly believe that it was being destroyed. She looked back with an expectation or a hope that nothing would happen to the city she loved.

Those who look to God with expectation and pleasure, being assured that He will come through - have a glow ont heir faces. They brighten up. The light of God is reflected on their faces.

EX: Moses whose face glowed after being in God's presence

"Not ashamed" = not disappointed because God did not fail to respond to their prayer.

If you pray to God and are confident that what you ask is His will, you will never be disappointed. He will not turn your bright face into a blushing face.

You will not go hide your face in embarrassment because of God being unfaithful.

C. When you pray believing,
GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU ALONE (V. 7)

"The Angel of the Lord" = the messenger of Yahweh. A reference to Christ who appeared to men in the O.T. A Christophany (Gen. 16:7-14, 21:17-21; 22:11-18; 31:11, 13; Exod. 3:2; Jud. 2:1-4, 5:23, 6:11-24, 13:3-22; II Sam. 24:16; Zech. 1:12, 3:1, 12:8).

Hagar called the Angel of the Lord - "God" - "Thou God seest me" (Gen. 16:13).

Joshua called Him "Lord" (Josh. 5:15).

Both Moses and Joshua worshipped Him as God after He said, "Take off thy shoes, for the place whereon you stand is holy ground" (Ex. 3:6; Josh. 5:14).

Gideon called Him "Lord God" (Jud. 6:22).

Manoah said, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!" (Jud. 13:22).

The Angel of the Lord went on ahead of Israel and defended them as they crossed the Red Sea (Ex. 14:19);

The Angel of the Lord fought for Joshua and was called "the Captain of the armies of the Lord" (Josh. 5:14);

And the Angel of the Lord protected Daniel in the lions' den (Dan. 6:23)

CONCLUSION: V. 8

David is not calling for us to theorize or just know about God's goodness, but to "taste" or fully experience it!

Only as you personally step out by faith and throw yourself fully upon God can you really know what God is talking about.

"Taste" - cp. Heb. 6:4 - "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,"

cp. I Pet. 2:3 - "If so be that ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

You must taste God's salvation, power, faithfulness, etc., before you can know what it really is like.

Spiritual experience leads to genuine spiritual perception or knowledge.

ILLUS: I know what "Wheaties" cereal is like , not because of the TV commercials, but because I have tasted it.

I know what God's salvation can do because I have seen what it did for me. I know God can be trusted because He has never let me down yet.

V. 8 - "Man" = not the usual word for man. It is the Hebrew word "Geber" which refers to a man who has personal strength and vigor. God is saying to you who think you have strength, ability, etc. even you, need Him for refuge (shelter).

You are blessed if you trust God and not yourself.

We can be confident in our Lord!

Tonight, we need a personal revival. We will see it by offering:

1.Continual praise
2.Confident prayers