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Praise Builds Us Up

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **April 10, 2011**

Jude 1:17-25

Introduction: When should we give words of **praise** to God? We are inclined to reserve them for the joyous events of life. But praise in these circumstances is relatively easy.

David's psalms included thanksgiving and praise even when he encountered the **opposition** of Saul and other **enemies**. The apostles in Jerusalem **rejoiced** that they were counted **worthy** to suffer shame for the sake of Christ. Paul and Silas sang **praises** to God in a Philippian prison at midnight. Peter urged the leaders to **rejoice** in the midst of their fiery **trials** and **sufferings**.

The book of Jude gives yet another example of praise in the midst of difficulty. The readers of Jude's short letter were facing an onslaught of **false teaching** and **ungodly** practices, all within the bounds of the church. Yet, after graphically depicting the dangers they faced, he ended his letter with one of the most memorable **doxologies** (*in Christian worship, a hymn in praise of the Almighty*) in all of scripture.

Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series

Praise, the joyful tribute of gratitude or **HOMAGE** rendered to the Divine Being; the act of glorifying or extolling the Creator; worship, particularly worship by song, distinction from prayer and other acts of worship; as, a service of praise.

Homage, **reverence** directed to the Supreme Being; reverential worship; devout affection.
(This set of definitions came from the 1913 Webster's Dictionary)

Thought 1. From this definition of praise, we can see its **not** just **singing** and making a **joyful** noise; although these things are done when praising God and our Lord Jesus. The truth is if these things are **done** in the **absence** of **REVERENCE** it's **not** **praise**. And consequently, the person will not be built up (**strengthened**, made stable or settled).

But, more importantly, God **hates** the sound of it **all** until **proper reverence** is in the person's heart that will cause them to, first, repent, then obey him, and finally praise him from a pure heart that is truly expressing the **LOVE** and **respect** it has for him.

Amos 5:21-24, I **hate**, I **despise** your feast days ...I will **not** smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt **offerings** and your meat **offerings**, I will **NOT** **accept** them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. Take thou **away** from me the **noise** of thy **SONGS**; for I will **not** hear the **melody** of thy **viols**. ...let judgment run down as waters, and **righteousness** as a mighty stream.

Psalms 29:1-2, Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the **glory due** unto his **name**; **worship** the Lord in the **beauty** of **holiness**.

Psalms 34:1-7, I will bless the LORD **at all times**: **his PRAISE** shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her **boast** in the LORD: the humble shall hear

thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. **I sought** the LORD, and **he heard me**, and **delivered me** from all my **fears**. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were **not** ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard *him*, and saved him out of all his troubles. The **angel** of the LORD **encampeth** round about them that **FEAR** (reverence) him, and **delivereth** them.

Thought 2. Now we can understand **why** David, Peter, Paul and Silas **prayed** (talked to God) and sang **praises** to him. What happened to them in suffering was no surprise! God and Jesus took them up front **why** people would persecute them. So, they were **prepared** for it!

And because of their reverence for God, which **kept** their minds looking toward him: **stayed** on him, **praise** of him for **who** he is, and **how** he works, was always on their lips! Once we learn the secret to **reverencing** God and Jesus **always**, we'll understand and experience the **JOY** that David and the others had; even in times of persecution!

Proverbs 28:14, **HAPPY** is the **man (person)** that **FEARETH** **alway**: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

Isaiah 26:3-4, Thou wilt keep **him** in perfect **peace**, whose **MIND** is **stayed** on **thee**: because he **trusteth** in thee.

Trust ye in the Lord **for ever**: for IN the Lord **Jehovah** is everlasting **strength**...

1 Peter 4:14, If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy (fortunate, blessed, happy)** are ye; for the spirit of **GLORY** and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is **glorified**.

Matthew 21:16 ... have ye never read, Out of the mouth of **babes** and **sucklings** thou hast **PERFECTED** **praise**.

Perfected defined 2675, to complete thoroughly, **adjust**-- (make accurate; to settle or bring to a satisfactory state)

Psalms 8:2, Out of the mouth of **babes** and **sucklings** hast thou **ordained (settle, established [set and fix firmly])** **STRENGTH (praise)** because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

Jude 1:17-18, *But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be*

MOCKERS in the **last time**, who should **walk** after their own ungodly **lusts (desires)**.

Mockers defined 1703. empaiktes pronounced *emp-aheek-tace'* from 1702; a **derider**(one who laughs at another in contempt [disrespect; the act of despising]), i.e. (by implication) **a false teacher**-- **mockers, scoffer**.

2 Peter 3:1-4, This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I **stir up** your pure minds by way of **remembrance**: That ye may **be mindful** of the **words** which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the **apostles** of the Lord and Saviour: **Knowing** this **first**, that there shall come in the last days **SCOFFERS**, walking after their own **lusts (desires)**, and **SAYING**, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the **beginning** of the **creation**.

Saying defined 3004, to "lay" forth, i.e. (figuratively) relate (in words (usually of systematic or set discourse (a sermon, uttered or written).

Thought 1. These false teachers were referring to the very **first beginning** of the creation of the earth, and **everything** that God made. They did **not** mean the **six day** creation. This helps us understand Peter's choice of his next words.

2 Peter 3:5-6, For this they **willingly** are **ignorant** of, that by the word of God the heavens were of **old**, and the **earth** standing out of the water and **IN** the water: Whereby the **WORLD** that then was, being **overflowed** with **water**, **PERISHED**: but the **heavens** and the **earth**, which are **NOW**, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto **fire** against the day of judgment and perdition of **ungodly** men.

World defined 2889, the world, including its inhabitants.
Perished defined 622, destroy [to demolish, ruin] **FULLY**.)...

Thought 2. Peter is reminding them that a **judgment** from God came on the earth, heavens and inhabitants that were first created. He said, at first, the **land** was standing out **OF (above)** the water and in the water. But then, that world, with its inhabitants, was **overflowed** with water and **FULLY destroyed!**

What Moses wrote of in Genesis 1:2 was the result of that judgment. He saw **NO land ABOVE** the water! And the earth was **without form** and **void!**

Genesis 1:2, And the earth was **WITHOUT FORM**, and **VOID**; and **darkness** was upon the face of the **deep**.

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the **WATERS**.

Without form defined 8414, a desolation [a waste: a DESTRUCTION].

Void defined 922, an undistinguishable RUIN. (*Jeremiah also saw it.*)

Jeremiah 4:23, I beheld the **earth**, and, lo, it was **WITHOUT FORM**, and **VOID**; and the **heavens**, and they had **NO light**. (*Genesis 1:2, said darkness*)

Thought 3. These scriptures prove the earth was **fully destroyed** by a major **flood** before the **flood** of Noah's time, which did not destroy as Peter saw. And after a long time, for his pleasure, God took **six days** to make it GOOD again! (Ex. 20:11)

Genesis 1:2-4, And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the **WATERS**.

And God said, **Let there be light:** and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was **GOOD**...

Thought 4. Now, after reading these verses, ask the average Christian, What was the **first** thing God **created** when he **FIRST** made the earth? And they'll answer, **Light!** But, with help from those who've studied more closely, obvious questions arise. On what **day** did God create **WATER?** And on what day did God create the **land** that makes up the earth?

We see in verse two, the **earth** was **ALREADY** covered with water **BEFORE** the Spirit moved and God said, "Let there be light! And even when we read down through **this** creation, we see he did **not create water** nor land. But, he did separate the waters. That was day two! (Gen. 1:6-8) And on day three he said, "Let the dry land **appear.**"

Genesis 1:6, And God said, Let there be a **firmament (an expanse** [space]) in the midst of the waters, and let it **divide** the waters from the waters.

Genesis 1:9, And God said, Let the **waters** under the heaven be **gathered** together unto one place, and let the **dry land APPEAR:** and it was so.

Thought 5. We have the **SAME** earth and sky made during the **six day** creation!

Jude 1:19, These be they who separate themselves, **sensual**, having **not** the Spirit.

Sensual defined 5591, sensual (Hence, **not spiritual** or intellectual; carnal; fleshly; pertaining to, or consisting in, the gratification of the senses, or the indulgence of appetites; **WORLDLY**).

NOTE: Sensualists are the worst **separatists**. They separate themselves **from** God, and Christ, and his church, **TO** the devil, the world, and the flesh, by their ungodly courses and vicious practices; and this is a great deal worse than separation from any particular branch of the visible church on account of **opinions** or **modes** and circumstances of external government or worship, though many can patiently bear with the former, while they are plentifully and almost perpetually railing at the latter, as if no sin were damnable but what they are **pleased** to call **schism**. (2.) Sensual men have not the Spirit, that is, of God and Christ, the Spirit of holiness...

Source: The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible

Romans 8:8-9, So then they that are **IN** the **FLESH** cannot please God. But ye are **NOT** in the **flesh**, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God **dwell** (**reside** [abide, live]) in you.

Now if any man have **not** the **Spirit of Christ**, he is **none** of his.

Jude 1:20, But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves** on your most holy faith, **praying** in the Holy Ghost...

Building up defined 2026, build (to increase and strengthen; to increase the power and stability of; to settle, or establish, and preserve) **upon**.

Thought 1. Yes, we do pray with our **understanding in faith** as the Holy Ghost **teaches**. But, this is not "praying in Holy Ghost." Praying in the Holy Ghost, means to talk with tongues: **language** of our spirit, not **naturally** acquired, but **supernaturally** acquired, where we speak **child** to **Father**, as the Spirit gives the utterance (articulation). After being **filled** by the Spirit, by faith, we can **both pray** and **sing** in the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 14:2-4, For he that speaketh in an *unknown tongue* speaketh not unto men, but **unto God**: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the **spirit** he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to edification*, and exhortation, and comfort. He that **speaketh** in an **unknown tongue** **edifieth** (**builds up**) **himself**; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

1 Corinthians 14:15, What is it then? I will **pray** with the **spirit**, and I will **pray** with the understanding also: I will **SING** with the **spirit**, and I will **sing** with the **understanding** also.

Jude 1:21-22 ...keep yourselves in the **love** of God, **looking** for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of **some** have **compassion**, making a difference...

NOTE: We are not only (under God) our own keepers, but every man ought to be, as much as in him lies, his **brother's keeper**; none but a wicked Cain will contradict this, Gen. 4:9. We must watch over one another, **must faithfully**, yet prudently, **reprove** (convince of a fault) each other, and set a good example to all about us.

Source: The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for **reproof** (**proof, conviction: evidence**), for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness:

That the man of God may be **perfect**, throughly furnished unto **ALL** good works

2 Timothy 4:2, Preach the word; be **instant** **IN** **season**, **OUT** of **season**; **reprove**, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Instant defined 2186, be present [ready at hand], **assault** [to attack by words or arguments (series of reasoning) with a view to shake, impair or overthrow].

Season defined 2122, opportunely [a time favorable for the purpose].

Reprove, 1651, confute [disprove], **convince** [to subdue the opposition of the mind to truth, or to what is alleged, and **COMPEL** it to yield its assent].)

NOTE: *Of some* we must **have compassion**, treat them with all **tenderness**, *restore them in the spirit of meekness*, not be **needlessly harsh** and **severe** in our censures of them and their actions... **Source: The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible**

Jude 1:23 ...and others **save with fear**, *pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh (human nature [Satan's nature we had before being born again]).*

NOTE: *And others save with fear...* Meaning false teachers, who lead others into errors, and such as give themselves over unto sin, whether teachers or hearers, and who are **obstinate** (stubborn; not yielding to reason, arguments or other means) and **irreclaimable**; even such as these, means **should be used** to save, if possible, by **sharp** admonitions and **severe** language; by denouncing the awful judgments of God, which threaten them; by inflicting on them **church censures** in a terrible manner; by declaring the terrors of the Lord, and of hell, and of everlasting damnation: **pulling [them] out of the fire**; of their soul destroying doctrines, and of their filthy and unnatural lusts, and as it were out of the **fire** of hell, of which they are in great danger:

Source: The New John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible

NOTE: *Hating even the garment spotted with the flesh*, that is, keeping yourselves at the utmost distance from what is or appears evil, and designing and endeavouring that others may do so too. Avoid all that leads to sin or that looks like sin," 1 Th. 5:22.

Source: The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible

Jude 1:24-25, *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*

NOTE: Rose remarked that, "If Jude is known or noticed at all by churchgoers, it is because of the frequent use of Jude 1:24,25," in such things as the **benediction**. To this writer, this benediction instantly brings to mind **Ike Thorne** (a faithful **deacon** from the Central Church of Christ, Houston, Texas, a retired member of Plasterers' Labor Union, and truly a wonderful person.) who frequently dismissed the congregation with his immense, stentorian voice, booming out the awesome words of this magnificent passage, using no other words except these. One feels sure that many others have similar recollections.

Unto him that is able to guard you from stumbling ...

If Christians heed the instructions of their Lord and **walk in the light** AS he is in the light, they will **not** stumble; and, for those who thus walk, the Lord indeed **CAN** and does guard them from stumbling.

Source: James Burton Coffman's Commentaries: New Testament

NOTE: All real sincere **believers** shall be presented, and the Lord Redeemer's appearance and coming, by him their glorious head, to the Father, in order to his approbation, **acceptance**, and **reward**. They were given to him of the Father, and *of all that were so given to him he has lost none*, nor will lose any one, not an individual, a single soul, but will present them all perfectly **holy** and **happy**, when he shall surrender his mediatorial kingdom to **his God** and our God, **his Father** and our Father, Jn. 6:39, with ch. 17:12, 1 Co. 15:24.

Source: The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible

1 John 4:17, Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have **boldness** in the day of judgment: **because as he IS, SO are WE in this world.**