

A Word From Your Pastor

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced."
I Chronicles 16:8-12 NIV

There is POWER in PRAISE! We see such a beautiful example of praise coming from the heart of King David throughout his lifetime! In I Chronicles 15:1 we see that King David prepared a place in Jerusalem for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it there. Once this was accomplished, King David committed a Psalm of Thanks for Asaph and his associates to say and sing before the Lord. This amazing Psalm of Thanks can be found in I Chronicles 16:8-36.

As we read this Psalm of Thanks, we should each be challenged to ask ourselves, "How do I start my day? What is my attitude throughout most of my day? How do I finish my day?" It's quite easy to get up 'grumpy' and to go through the day finding fault with most anything that comes our way. The bigger challenge for all of us is to rejoice in God's Goodness, in the midst of the struggles of life.



This seems to be exactly what King David is doing throughout his Psalm of Thanks! Look at I Chronicles 16:23-25 - ***"Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods."*** What about taking this Psalm of Thanks and using it to begin your day? Change it to the first person tense and begin to
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praise the Lord your God! For example, starting with Vs. 23, it might sound something like this: *"I sing to You, Lord, from this earth, as I proclaim Your salvation day after day. Help me to declare Your glory among the nations, and Your marvelous deeds among the peoples! For You are great, Lord, and most worthy of praise! You, Lord, are to be feared above all gods!"* Then take a few moments to praise the Lord for His wonderful works that you have seen Him do in your own life!

Going on to Vs. 27 and following, your praise unto the Lord will continue: *"Splendor and majesty are before You, Lord; strength and joy are Your dwelling place. As for myself and my family, we ascribe to You glory and strength, and we give glory to Your Name, as we worship You in the splendor of Your holiness! We tremble before You as we are in awe of Your majesty!"* Can you feel the joy of the Lord rising within your own heart? If you will step out in faith and begin praising the Lord, you will notice a great difference in your daily life! A big part of living by faith is praising the Lord when you don't feel like it!

Let's go on to Vs. 31 - *"As the heavens rejoice before You, Lord, the earth is also glad! Today I declare among the nations, 'The Lord Reigns!' Even the seas resound in praise to You, Lord, and the fields of grain are jubilant before You. The trees of the forest are also singing with joy before You! With all of Your creation, Lord God, I give thanks to You, for You are good and Your love endures forever!"* Taking God's Word and



praising Him for His goodness will certainly put a smile on your face! I often think of the words found in Proverbs 17:22 which say, ***"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."*** As we enjoy the beauty of God's creation during our summer months, let's make time, and take time to praise the Lord for His goodness! Praise the Lord! Amen!

In Christ Alone,

Pastor Mike