

Thanksgiving. Praise & Worship (#4267) - Notes

Presented by Derek Prince in an 85-minute talk (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qElfBbK3zu4&t=3s>).

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Notes: Many Christians—and more than a few "worship leaders"—know that **thanksgiving, praise and worship** are three very distinct ways of expressing ourselves to God. In this challenging message, you will discover the practical means to incorporate each of these in your approach to God—and experience the glorious results.

There are different aspects of Prayer that include – (1) Thanksgiving, (2) Praise, and (3) Worship. Revealed in the scriptures, God shows us **the prescribed way we are to approach God through His Only Son, Jesus Christ** - First with **VERBAL Thanksgiving and Praise**; followed with **SILENT Worship!**

I. Part 1 – Thanksgiving (Verbal Declaration of God’s Goodness)

A. All Prayer begins with Thanksgiving and Praise, which then leads to Worship.

Thanksgiving – Acknowledges the Goodness of God

Praise - Acknowledges the Greatness of God

Worship Acknowledges the Glory or Holiness of God

B. In Thanksgiving, Compare NKJV (New King James Version), NIV (New International Version), and HCSB (Holman Christian Standard Bible) –showing that **Grace =**

Thankfulness

1. “Let us have grace” - *Hebrews 12:28 (NKJV) Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we [a]may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*
2. “Let us be thankful” - *Hebrews 12:28 (NIV) Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*
3. We cannot have grace without being thankful - *Hebrews 12:28 (HCSB) Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us hold on to grace [or let us give thanks, or let us have grace]. *By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe.**

C. Statements about thankfulness

1. God commands us to be thankful - *Colossians 3:15-17 (HCSB) And let the peace of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts. Be thankful. Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*
2. The FIRST step in following the will of God, is to be THANKFUL. Do nothing without giving thanks in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ – as Christ thanked God when Lazarus was raised from the dead. *John 11:41-42 (HCSB) So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You heard Me. I*

know that You always hear Me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so they may believe You sent Me.”

3. Natural overflow of the Holy Spirit - *Ephesians 5:18-20 (NKJV) - And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 4. Failure to give thanks quenches the Holy Spirit – *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (HCSB) Rejoice always! Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*
 5. Thankfulness and gratitude are necessary to make other forms of prayer effective - *Philippians 4:5-7 (HCSB) Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
 6. First stage of approaching God – we enter through God’s Gates with THANKSGIVING and enter into His courts with PRAISE. - *Psalm 100:4 (HCSB) Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name.*
 7. Three unchanging reasons for thanking God - *Psalm 100:5 (HCSB) For Yahweh is good, and His love is eternal; His faithfulness endures through all generations.*
 8. When Christ healed the ten lepers, all ten were healed of their physical infirmity (illness), but only one was healed spiritually (received salvation) because he was THANKFUL. *Luke 17:11-19 (HCSB) While traveling to Jerusalem, He passed between[a] Samaria and Galilee. As He entered a village, men with serious skin diseases met Him. They stood at a distance and raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When He saw them, He told them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And while they were going, they were healed. But one of them, seeing that he was healed, returned and, with a loud voice, gave glory to God. He fell facedown at His feet, thanking Him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, “Were not 10 cleansed? Where are the nine? Didn’t any return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And He told him, “Get up and go on your way. Your faith has made you well.”*
 9. Key to release of supernatural power is THANKSGIVING: The effective and powerful prayers of the Bible were short and released God’s power with THANKSGIVING! - *John 6:11 (HCSB) Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks He distributed them to those who were seated—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted.* And again the author repeats himself and shows us the release of God’s power in performing this miracle came from GIVING THANKS. *John 6:23 (HCSB) Some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord gave thanks.*
- D. The opposite of being thankful.
1. Downward steps of the human race begins with a failure to glorify, thank, or show gratitude to God. This shows the decline of the human race from the perspective of the LOGICAL outworking of evil in humans – with the decline of human character. -

Romans 1:21 (HCSB) For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened.

a. It doesn't matter if you are a Believer or a Non-Believer, **Our minds are darkened** by (1) **Not glorifying God**.

b. AND by (2) **Not being thankful**.

2. To be unthankful is to be unholy. The end times will show the decline of the human race from the perspective of the **HISTORICAL outworking of evil in humans** – the decline of human character. *2 Timothy 3:1-5 (HCSB) But know this: Difficult times will come in the last days. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful [UNTHANKFUL], unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people!*
3. Murmuring or complaining (the opposite of being thankful) is a sin that invites the destroyer, as described for us in God's judgment on the nation of Israel while they were in the wilderness. *1 Corinthians 10:3-11 (HCSB) They all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. But God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things became examples for us, so that we will not desire evil things as they did. Don't become idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to play. Let us not commit sexual immorality as some of them did, and in a single day 23,000 people fell dead. Let us not test Christ as some of them did[e] and were destroyed by snakes. Nor should we complain as some of them did, and were killed by the destroyer. Now these things happened to them as examples, and they were written as a warning to us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. God judged Israel with serpents because of their UNTHANKFUL and COMPLAINING attitude. Numbers 21:4-9 (HCSB) Then they set out from Mount Hor by way of the Red Sea to bypass the land of Edom, but the people became impatient because of the journey. The people spoke against God and Moses: "Why have you led us up from Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread or water, and we detest this wretched food!" Then the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people, and they bit them so that many Israelites died. The people then came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede with the Lord so that He will take the snakes away from us." And Moses interceded for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake image and mount it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will recover." So Moses made a bronze snake and mounted it on a pole. Whenever someone was bitten, and he looked at the bronze snake, he recovered.*

II. Part 2 – Praise (Verbal Declaration of Gods Greatness)

A. Our praise should be in proportion to God's greatness *Psalms 48:1-2 (HCSB) The Lord is*

great and highly praised in the city of our God. His holy mountain, rising splendidly, is the joy of the whole earth. Mount Zion on the slopes of the north is the city of the great King.

- B. Second stage in approaching God is Praise and follows Thanksgiving. *Psalm 100:4 (HCSB) Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name.*
- C. Gateway to the presence of God is PRAISE. The wall around God is salvation, but the gates through the wall are PRAISE! *Isaiah 60:18 (HCSB) Violence will never again be heard of in your land; devastation and destruction will be gone from your borders. But you will name your walls salvation and your gates, praise.*
- D. Seven scriptural facts about praise
1. Our praise offers God a throne of praise from those who love Him. *Psalm 22:3 (HCSB) But You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.*
 2. Praise is purpose for which God blesses us and brings victory. We are praising God for a victory that has already been won! *Psalm 106:47 (HCSB) Save us, Yahweh our God, and gather us from the nations, so that we may give thanks to Your holy name and rejoice in Your praise.* Compare this with the New Testament proclamation of Christ's victory over Satan's Curse of Evil. *2 Corinthians 2:14-17 (HCSB) But thanks be to God, who always puts us on display in Christ and through us spreads the aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For to God we are the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To some we are an aroma of death leading to death, but to others, an aroma of life leading to life. And who is competent for this? For we are not like the many who market God's message for profit. On the contrary, we speak with sincerity in Christ, as from God and before God.*
 3. Our tongue is our glory which gives praise to God. *Psalm 30:11-12 (HCSB) You turned my lament into dancing; You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, so that I can sing to You and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise You forever.* And in the New Testament, Luke describes the crucifixion, resurrection, and glorification of Jesus Christ by God, His Father; and quotes David from Psalm 16:8-11. *Acts 2:22-36 (HCSB) "Men of Israel, listen to these words: This Jesus the Nazarene was a man pointed out to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did among you through Him, just as you yourselves know. Though He was delivered up according to God's determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail Him to a cross and kill Him. God raised Him up, ending the pains of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. For David says of Him: I saw the Lord ever before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced. Moreover, my flesh will rest in hope, because You will not leave me in Hades or allow Your Holy One to see decay. You have revealed the paths of life to me; You will fill me with gladness in Your presence. "Brothers, I can confidently speak to you about the patriarch David: He is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn an oath to him to seat one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing this in advance, he spoke concerning the*

resurrection of the Messiah: He was not left in Hades, and His flesh did not experience decay. “God has resurrected this Jesus. We are all witnesses of this. Therefore, since He has been exalted to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, He has poured out what you both see and hear. For it was not David who ascended into the heavens, but he himself says: The Lord declared to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah!”

4. Praise is a beautiful garment of our spirit. When Christ revealed Himself as the promised Messiah in the Nazareth Synagogue, He quoted from Isaiah 61:1-2 and told the Jews He just fulfilled this prophecy. *Luke 4:14-21 (HCSB) Then Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread throughout the entire vicinity. He was teaching in their synagogues, being acclaimed[a] by everyone. He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. As usual, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him, and unrolling the scroll, He found the place where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on Him. He began by saying to them, “Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled.”* That same scripture quotation from Isaiah 61:1-2, goes on to say in verse 3 that the promised Messiah would bring us praise as a beautiful garment of our spirit. *Isaiah 61:3 (HCSB) To provide for those who mourn in Zion; to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, festive oil instead of mourning, and splendid clothes instead of despair. And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the Lord to glorify Him.* As the psalmist (stated in the Septuagint to be David) says. *Psalms 33:1 (HCSB) Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones; praise from the upright is beautiful.*
5. Believers offer Praise as a sacrifice. *Jeremiah 33:11 (HCSB) A sound of joy and gladness, the voice of the groom and the bride, and the voice of those saying, Praise the Lord of Hosts, for the Lord is good; His faithful love endures forever as they bring thank offerings to the temple of the Lord. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as in former times, says the Lord.* As also repeated in the New Testament. *Hebrews 13:15-16 (HCSB) Therefore, through Him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess His name. Don’t neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.*
6. Praise is a spiritual weapon to silence and bind Satan. *Psalms 8:2 (HCSB) Because of Your adversaries, You have established a stronghold from the mouths of children and nursing infants to silence the enemy and the avenger* [per a French translation, Yahweh imposes SILENCE on Satan when we PRAISE YAHWEH]. As repeated and quoted by Jesus Christ during His time with us on earth. *Matthew 21:16 (HCSB) And said to Him, “Do You hear what these children are saying?” “Yes,” Jesus told them. “Have you*

never read: You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants?” We celebrate God’s glory and expose evil through our praises. Psalm 149:5-9 (HCSB) Let the godly celebrate in triumphal glory; let them shout for joy on their beds. Let the exaltation of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, inflicting vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, binding their kings with chains and their dignitaries with iron shackles, carrying out the judgment decreed against them. This honor is for all His godly people. Hallelujah!

7. Praise prepares the way for God’s supernatural intervention:

- *Psalm 50:23 (HCSB) Whoever sacrifices a thank offering honors Me, and whoever orders his conduct, I will show him the salvation of God.”*
- *2 Chronicles 20:21-22 (HCSB) Then he consulted with the people and appointed some to sing for the Lord and some to praise the splendor of His holiness. When they went out in front of the armed forces, they kept singing: Give thanks to the Lord, for His faithful love endures forever. The moment they began their shouts and praises, the Lord set an ambush against the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir who came to fight against Judah, and they were defeated.*
- *Jonah 2:9-10 (HCSB) But as for me, I will sacrifice to You with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation is from the Lord! Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.*
- *Acts 16:25-26 (HCSB) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains came loose.*

E. When to praise God.

1. We praise God Every day—forever and ever. *Psalm 145:2 (HCSB) I will praise You every day; I will honor Your name forever and ever.*
2. We praise God at all times—continually. *Psalm 34:1 (HCSB) I will praise the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.*

F. How to praise God.

1. We praise God with our whole heart. *Psalm 111:1 (HCSB) Hallelujah! I will praise the Lord with all my heart in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.*
2. We praise God with understanding. *Psalm 47:7 (HCSB) Sing a song of wisdom, for God is King of all the earth.*
3. We praise God with lifted hands—joyful mouth and lips. *Psalm 63:4-5 (HCSB) So I will praise You as long as I live; at Your name, I will lift up my hands. You satisfy me as with rich food; my mouth will praise You with joyful lips.*
4. We praise God with lifting the hands—as an evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2 (HCSB) May my prayer be set before You as incense, the raising of my hands as the evening offering.*
5. We praise God with the dance *Psalm 149:3 (HCSB) Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with tambourine and lyre.*
6. We praise God with the timbrel and dance. *Psalm 150:4 (HCSB) Praise Him with*

tambourine and dance; praise Him with flute and strings.

G. Who is to praise God.

1. There are 29 kinds of creatures who are to praise the Lord. *Psalm 148:2 (HCSB) Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts.*

2. Everything that has breath can praise God. *Psalm 150:6 (HCSB) Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Hallelujah!*

H. Who does not praise God? The dead. *Psalm 115:7 (HCSB) They have hands but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk. They cannot make a sound with their throats.*

III. Part 3 – Worship (A Non-Verbal Attitude of the Body’s Posture and Our Complete Inner Attitude Towards God’s Glory or Holiness). This is inner attitude is reflected through our body with the bowing of the head, the outstretching of our arms with the palms of our hands turned upwards, our kneeling down before God, falling prostrate, with our faces on the ground before God.

A. An example of Heavenly Worship with praise before Yahweh – having the body (face and feet) covered before God. - *Isaiah 6:1-3 (HCSB) In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and His robe filled the temple. Seraphim were standing above Him; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; His glory fills the whole earth.*

1. Worship (attitude) plus praise (utterance)
2. Covering face and feet is worship
3. Flying is service
4. Four wings for worship, two for service
5. Service should proceed out of worship

B. Worship without service is hypocrisy, as shown by Christ’s words to Satan. *Matthew 4:10 (HCSB) Then Jesus told him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.”*

1. Service should follow and come out of service.
2. Merely to Worship without service is hypocrisy.
3. People can sometimes become spiritually self-indulgence by having people-focused worship, without being translated into service towards others. This becomes self-focused hypocrisy. Worship and God-directed service to others should never be separated from each other. Our God uses us as Christ-surrendered vessels to serve others.

C. Entering into worship *Psalm 95:1-7 (HCSB) Come, let us shout joyfully to the Lord, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to Him in song. For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods. The depths of the earth are in His hand, and the mountain peaks are His. The sea is His; He made it. His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep under His care. Today, if you hear His voice:*

1. Loud jubilant praise

2. Reasons for praise
 3. Worship is to bow down and kneel in a physical posture with SILENCE. We are acknowledging God as our creator and redeemer. **When we worship, we have come to the end of talking, and we LISTEN to God.** This message is continued with *Psalm 95:7-8 Today if you hear His voice: Do not harden your hearts!*
- D. We Worship with our spirit through God's Holy Spirit - truth requires sincerity. We Worship God from our Spirit towards God's Spirit in TRUTH with SINCERITY. *John 4:23-24 (HCSB) But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*
1. Frankincense (worship) is made fragrant by fire. Oil represents the God's Spirit and Frankincense represents worship. We NEVER offer worship to any person and ONLY WORSHIP God. *Leviticus 2:1-2 (HCSB) "When anyone presents a grain offering as a gift to the Lord, his gift must consist of fine flour. He is to pour olive oil on it, put frankincense on it, and bring it to Aaron's sons the priests. The priest will take a handful of fine flour and oil from it, along with all its frankincense, and will burn this memorial portion of it on the altar, a fire offering of a pleasing aroma to the Lord.*
 2. No grain offering is made with honey or leaven. Honey cannot stand fire; it becomes a black sticky mess. Leaven represents evil but is sometimes looked at in the New Testament as representing corruption or false teaching. Are we prating in SPIRIT and TRUTH or with sweetness and hypocrisy? *Leviticus 2:11 (HCSB) "No grain offering that you present to the Lord is to be made with yeast, for you are not to burn[a] any yeast or honey as a fire offering to the Lord.*
- E. Worship unites our spirit directly with God. WE can unite from within our spirits and our bodies. *1 Corinthians 6:16-17 (HCSB) Don't you know that anyone joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For Scripture says, The two will become one flesh. But anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.* Fruitlessness comes from immoral unions or our flesh with sexual immorality.
- F. Worship is what makes us productive in our service, as Vessels of Jesus Christ being used by God in THIS Fallen World. *2 Timothy 2:19-26 (HCSB) Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, having this inscription: The Lord knows those who are His, and Everyone who names the name of the Lord must turn away from unrighteousness. Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver bowls, but also those of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. So if anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. But reject foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they breed quarrels. The Lord's slave must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach, and patient, instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth. Then they may come to their senses and escape the Devil's trap, having been captured by him to do his will.*