

Trust, Praise, and Bearing Fruit

Scripture: Selected Scriptures

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REVIEW

I. CONFESSING JESUS AS LORD

II. AIMING OUR LIVES AT GLORIFYING HIM

III. CONFESSING SIN

The fourth way in which we glorify God is by...

IV. TRUSTING IN HIM

Glorifying God is as simple as trusting Him.

A. Examples of Trust

1. ABRAHAM

In Romans 4, the Apostle Paul is discussing Abraham and his relationship to faith. Abraham was not saved by law but by faith, as is any man in any age.

a. The Birth of Isaac

Romans 4:19 says this regarding Abraham: "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb." Abraham and Sarah had never had children because Sarah could not produce children. Under those circumstances God told them that they would have a child. At first Abraham did not believe God, but later he became confident of God's Word. Then in verse 20 Paul says, "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God." God was glorified when Abraham believed Him. The prospect of Abraham and Sarah having a child seemed so ridiculous, that they named the boy Isaac, which means "laughter." When you say to God, "If You say it, then I believe it," you show God that you trust His Word. That gives Him glory.

Dishonor--The Lack of Trust

When God says something that you don't believe, you dishonor Him. People often say something like, "God, You have a good thought. I appreciate the offer but You don't understand my circumstances." They believe the Bible when it says, "...my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). But as soon as they get into dire straits, they

become anxious; they don't know where their resources are. They panic and begin to question God. Then others say to them, "Aren't you the one who says that God will supply all your needs?" You either believe He does, or you don't. If you say you believe it, but don't manifest that you do, then you are doubting God. You are saying that God doesn't live up to His reputation--and that dishonors Him. First John 5:10 says, "...he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar...." When someone disbelieves God, he is saying that God is a liar. For example, the Bible says that we should give money to the Lord sacrificially, and abundantly, and never let the right hand know what the left hand does (Mt. 6:3). In turn God will repay us (Mt. 6:4). We understand the principle, but when it comes to actually giving, we have a problem going above a certain figure. We say we believe God, but we really don't believe unless that changes the way we act. We say that we believe we will go to heaven when we die, yet many people are anxious about death. The pain of anticipation is greater than the reality. Even though God supplies all that we need at the time of death, we aren't too sure that will happen in the way He says it will. Most of us have to honestly face the fact that we don't believe God as much as we claim.

b. The Offering of Isaac

Abraham "staggered not at the promise of God...." (Rom. 4:20a). When Isaac was a young lad, God said to Abraham, "I gave you a son. In the loins of that child is the promise of the Abrahamic covenant. He is the fulfillment of My promise. Now take him up on a mountain and kill him." So Abraham strapped a bundle of sticks on Isaac and went up the mountain. He laid him on an altar, tied him down, took out a knife, and was ready to plunge it into his heart. But the Angel of the Lord stopped him. Then he saw a ram in a thicket and offered it to God (Gen. 22:1-13). Abraham was willing to kill the very thing that was the fulfillment of God's promise in his life. He was absolutely confident that if God told him to do something, he would do it, never staggering, knowing that God would provide. Abraham could have said, "God, how can you possibly say that the Abrahamic covenant will be fulfilled with people numbering as the sands of the sea and the stars of the heaven if I'm going to kill the only possible fulfillment?" But Abraham didn't argue. He believed God would keep His Word, even if he had to kill his son. Abraham believed that Isaac would be raised from the dead, even though he had never experienced anything like that (Heb. 11:17-19).

Believing God gives Him glory. God's glory is the sum of all His attributes and the fullness of all His majesty. If He is who He says He is, then He is a God to be believed. You will grow spiritually when you trust God, saying, "If Your Word says it, I'm going to do it. If Your Word promises it, I'm going to claim it. If Your Word commands it, I'm going to obey it." We greatly dishonor God when we claim to believe in Him but aren't able to cope with life.

2. SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO

a. The Test of Faith

Daniel 3:13 says, "Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego...." Nebuchadnezzar wanted them brought before him because they would not acquiesce to his rules and worship the image he had made. They would only worship the true God. In verse 14-15 he says, "...Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? Now, if ye be ready that at that time that ye hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image which I have made, well; but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is that God, that shall deliver you out of my hands?" So Nebuchadnezzar put their faith to the test. Do they believe their God can handle Nebuchadnezzar? They can't see their God, but Nebuchadnezzar is visible. They can't see the hosts of their God, but they can see the formidable hosts of Nebuchadnezzar. They can see the power and the punitive pressure applied to them from Nebuchadnezzar's system. With all of that facing them, what did they do?

b. The Testimony of Faith

Verses 16-18 provide the answer, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." They knew that if God did not deliver them out of the fire, that He would deliver them to His righteous kingdom because they remained true to Him.

c. The Triumph of Faith

Verse 19 says, "Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed...he spoke, and commanded that they should heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated." The men who put Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace burned to death because it was so hot (vv. 22-23). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego really did believe God. You and I may say, "That's the way I believe God." Our confidence might be a little different if we were standing on the edge of that fiery furnace. There is no human way to escape that. But true faith in God knows no impossibilities.

3. NOAH

a. A Ridiculous Situation

The greatest challenge to faith that I know of in human history is the story of Noah (Gen. 6:14-22). God told Noah to build a massive boat (about the size of the Queen Mary). But that didn't seem to make sense because there wasn't a body of water nearby--he was in the middle of the desert. And that was a large boat for a man to build, especially when he would have to chop down the trees himself and hew his planks out of those trees. It took Noah a hundred and twenty years to build the boat (Gen. 6:3). During those years everybody laughed at him. They had never seen rain. You might have had the same reaction they had. Only you have one advantage: you have seen rain.

b. Remarkable Faith

The Bible says that Noah was a man of great faith. Hebrews 11:7 says, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house, by which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Noah believed God in the midst of a ridiculous situation.

B. Exhortations on Trust

Do we glorify God by believing Him? When you live in a state of faith you grow. The Bible says, "(For we walk by faith, not by sight)" (2 Cor. 5:7). That is a picture of Christian progress. We move towards God's perfect likeness as we walk by faith, not by sight. When you try to analyze everything by what you see, you will have trouble growing. When the people of Israel were ready to enter the land of Canaan and establish their nation, they sent spies before they entered (Num. 13:2). The spies came back and ten of them said, "We don't want to go in there. We were like grasshoppers, and they are giants" (Num. 13:33). They walked by sight. Joshua and Caleb said, "God's on our side. Let's go" (Num. 13:30). Those two walked by faith and the other ten walked by sight. The ten dishonored God saying, "God can't handle the circumstances." The two said, "God is bigger than any circumstance." What do you say? Do you live by faith? When you live by faith you are like Abraham, who "staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God" (Rom. 4:20). If you want to live to God's glory, then believe Him in everything that happens, everything He says, and every promise He gives.

Fifth, we glorify God by...

V. BEARING FRUIT

A. The Motivation of Bearing Fruit

In John 15:5 the Lord says that He is the vine and we are the branches. In other words, His life pulses through us. Spiritually, we are one organism with Him. As the flow of His life proceeds through us, it produces fruitfulness. Verse 8 shows what that fruitfulness accomplishes, "In this is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit...." Fruitfulness glorifies God because that means God's power is productive in our lives. Since we have received Christ, and as we aim at His glory, deal with sin in our lives, and walk by faith, God produces fruitfulness in us.

However, God is dishonored when you have little fruit. Now I don't believe that a Christian won't manifest some fruit. We have a peach tree in our backyard that went wild with fruit one year. That tree was the greatest illustration of a productive Christian I have ever seen. There was so much fruit on it that it could have fed the neighborhood. But the year before we looked long and hard to find one tiny, shriveled up, useless peach. At least there was one peach, which proved to us that it wasn't an apple tree! There are Christians like that tree. You have to look long and hard to find something that shows they belong to God.

B. The Manifestation of Bearing Fruit

Much fruit glorifies the Father. And spiritual growth is the process of producing much fruit. Producing fruit is important because that is how you manifest your character. How will people know that you're a believer and that you belong to God if they don't see any product? In other words, how will they know that you are an apple tree if you don't have an produce apples, or an orange tree if you don't produce oranges? How can they tell what you are unless there is some manifestation? The character of God is at stake. He wants to produce something in your life that will radiate Himself. He wants to do more than what your flesh or the world can do. In Titus 2:10 Paul said, "...adorn the doctrine of God...." There ought to be something of the nature of God manifest in you so that it is evident that He's at work in your life.

1. THE NEGATIVE MANIFESTATION

- a. Romans 2:24 -- The Apostle Paul makes an interesting statement to Israel, "For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you...." Instead of showing the world what God was like, they claimed to belong to God and gave the world the wrong perception of Him.
- b. John 8:44 -- Jesus said this to the leaders of Israel, "Ye are of your father the devil...." The product of their life was definitely not the product of God.

2. THE POSITIVE MANIFESTATION

- a. Matthew 5:16 -- Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, who is in heaven." Jesus is saying, "The product of your life should be the manifestation of God." He will be glorified when we are productive Christians--when the flow of life from the vine to the branches produces some luscious grapes that are useful.
- b. 1 Corinthians 9:7 -- "...Who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of its fruit?..." That's a fair question. Do you think that God poured His eternal life into you and made you the recipient of the very power of Christ in order to produce nothing? Not at all! We are to be fruitful.

C. The Meaning of Fruit

What do we mean by fruit?

1. PHILIPPIANS 1:11 -- "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." When you produce fruit, God is glorified. What is fruit in your life? Righteousness. And what is righteousness? It is right as opposed to wrong. When you do right you glorify God; when you do wrong you dishonor Him. Manifesting fruit means that you manifest righteousness.

2. 2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-12 -- "Wherefore, also, we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power" (v. 11). In other words, He wants to produce all of His goodness and power in you. Why? Verse 12 says, "That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you...." Christ in the believer is the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).

D. The Ministry of Fruit

There are two kinds of fruit in the Bible. The first I call...

1. ACTION FRUIT

What is action fruit?

a. Winning Souls

Romans 1:13 says, "Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you (but was prevented thus far,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles." What is the fruit that Paul is referring to? Converts. He wanted to win people to Christ. Action fruit includes winning someone to Christ. Is that a product of your life? I think that the natural thing for a believer to do is to win other people to Christ, because one of the products of life is reproduction.

1) 2 Timothy 2:2 -- Paul said this to Timothy, "And the things that thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

2) Matthew 28:19 -- Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." (NASB).

One of the qualities of life is its ability to reproduce. And one of the action fruits is winning converts to Christ. If you are involved in reproduction as a believer, then you are growing because spiritual life is at work in you.

Another action fruit is...

b. Giving

The Philippians sent Paul a magnanimous gift--a love offering. He appreciated their gift. Even though he didn't need it, he was glad they sent it. Why? Philippians 4:17 says, "Not because I desire a gift; but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." In other words, the great thing about their gift was that it was fruit that they had produced. If you wait for someone to have a need before you act, then you have missed the purpose of giving. You ought to give to someone who doesn't have a great need simply because there is fruit in your life. When your life is filled with the power of God, and you are totally committed to glorifying the Lord, you will find yourself giving--even when there isn't a great need because it's in your heart to give. My father used to say that you can give without loving, but you can never love without giving. If you love and are lost in the glory of God, then you will give even as God gives.

Another thing that we could consider as fruit is...

c. Thanking God

Hebrews 13:15 says, "By Him [Christ], therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name." Saying thanks to God is fruit. That

is a product of God's work in your life. Fruitfulness is winning people to Christ, giving a gift, saying thanks, and...

d. Doing Good

Colossians 1:10 says, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work...." Any good work is fruit.

Action fruit could be winning someone to Christ, giving a gift, thanking the Lord with your lips, or doing any good work. That is what God wants to see in your life. Productive Christians are growing Christians. If there is no fulfillment, or no manifestation of ministry in your life, then you're not growing. Spiritual growth will always manifest itself by bearing fruit.

There is a different category of fruit that I call...

2. ATTITUDE FRUIT

a. The Product of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control...." The Apostle Paul lists attitudes, not actions. Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control are all attitudes.

Which comes first: Attitudes or Actions?

Action fruit without attitude fruit is legalism. That was characteristic of the Pharisees. There are plenty of people telling other people about Jesus, but their attitude isn't right. They are doing it out of duty, obligation, and fear. There are people who give their money grudgingly. There are people who don't do certain things, but wish they could. They are acting in the right way, but they don't have the right attitude.

If you have the right attitude, then the right action follows automatically. That is true spiritually. Action fruit without attitude fruit is legalism. Attitude fruit producing action fruit is true spirituality. If you walk in the Spirit, then you are following the spiritual concept of yieldedness. When you walk in the Spirit, He produces love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. As He produces those attitudes in you, you will produce the right action. But there are plenty of phonies in the world acting without the right attitude. When some people say to Jesus, "We've done many wonderful works in Your name" (Mt. 7:22), He will say, "...I never knew you; depart from Me..." (Mt. 7:23). We glorify God when we are fruitful--when the right attitudes lead to the right actions.

b. The Power of the Spirit

You say, "How do you get the right attitudes? How do you get a heart full of love, joy, peace, and long-suffering?" Galatians 5:25 says, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." As we yield the control of our lives to the Holy Spirit, as the branch yields to the vine, a flow of right attitudes will permeate our lives to the point that we produce fruit. We glorify God by our fruitfulness.

There is a sixth principle. We glorify God by...

VI. PRAISING HIM

I don't believe that a Christian can grow unless his life is characterized by praise. Psalm 50:23 "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me...." If you want to glorify God, then offer praise. Glorifying God has nothing to do with stained glass windows and organ music; it simply involves bearing fruit, humbly trusting Him, confessing sin, bowing to the Lordship of Christ at any cost, and praising Him. That is what puts us on the path of growth. I believe that proud people don't praise God; they are too busy praising themselves. Humble people praise God--they are in awe of Him. In their humility they pour praise out of their hearts.

A. The Pattern of Praise

Praise is so much a part of God's pattern for His people that He gave them a hymn book filled with praise. The Psalms are great hymns that were sung and spoken by the people of Israel. God wanted them to constantly offer Him praise. And that is as it should be, for He is worthy.

1. PSALM 86:9-10, 12 -- "All nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship before Thee, O Lord, and shall glorify Thy name. For Thou art great, and doest wondrous things; thou art God alone.... I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Thy name for evermore." Praising God is equated with giving Him glory.

2. PSALM 92:1-2 -- "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High; to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night." It is good to praise the Lord in the morning and at night in order to set the pace for the whole day.

B. The Plan of Praise

What does it mean to praise? Some think it is singing a song. Some think it is to say, "Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!" Some think it is waving your hands. Some think it is silent prayer. But what is the right answer? How do we praise the Lord? Is it a little formula--a Christian cliché? No. True praise involves three things.

1. RECITING GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

Praise is the expression of the character of God.

a. In the Past

People will say to me, "I don't study the Old Testament too much because the New Testament is what matters because the mysteries have been revealed. There are many reasons to study the Old Testament. One is that it reveals much of the character of God. You ought to know the things that are true of God's nature if for no other reason than to praise Him for His nature.

For example, Habakkuk praised God for His character--that He is a holy, Almighty, eternal, covenant-keeping God (Hab. 1:12-13). In that praise he solved a great problem in his own heart. He didn't understand why God was going to judge Israel by sending the bitter and hasty Chaldeans (Hab. 1:6-11). Habakkuk was saying, "God, revive your people. Bring a great restoration." But God says, "I'm going to destroy Israel with a people worse than themselves." Habakkuk's response was, "God, how can You do that?" But in the middle of his confusion he remembered, "God is holy--He doesn't make mistakes. God is a covenant keeping God--He doesn't break His promises. God is eternal--He is outside the flux of history. God is Almighty--He is not a victim of the Chaldeans." By the time he finished with his praise he said, "...the just shall live by his faith" (Hab. 2:4). He felt better even though his circumstances hadn't changed. Habakkuk's problem never got any better; it got worse. But he knew his God was strong enough to handle his circumstances.

b. In the Present

In my life praising God's attributes is very important. When problems come up in our lives that we can't solve, instead of saying, "What a terrible problem. How are we going to solve it? We don't seem to have the resources Lord," say, "Lord, You are bigger than history. You own everything in the entire universe. You can do anything that You want to do. You said that You loved us and promised that we would never be without the things we need. You said that You would take care of us like You take care of the grass of the field. You have promised that Your character and power are at our disposal." Do you see how much better you will feel? And you will also be glorifying God.

Second, glorifying and praising God is not only a matter of reciting His attributes, but...

2. RECITING HIS WORKS

God's attributes are on display in His works.

a. Practiced in the Psalms

The Psalms often repeat what God has done. They praise Him for parting the Red Sea, for bringing the people out of Egypt, for parting the Jordan river, for making the water flow from the rock, for feeding Israel with manna in the wilderness, for destroying Israel's enemies, and for making the walls of Jericho fall. That exalts God--and that is what praise is all about!

b. Practiced by Habakkuk

After reevaluating his problems, Habakkuk began to praise God for His works. In Habakkuk 3:16 he trembled when thinking about what God did. But he was so confident in his God that if all the trees and animals died on the hillside, and all of nature changed, he would trust God (vv. 17-18). Why? Because God has proven Himself in the past. And that is why the Old Testament has so much history of God's works. We know that God has proven Himself faithful.

c. Practiced Today

Praising God involves reciting His attributes and works. If you have a problem facing you at work or school, and you don't know how you are going to solve it, remember to praise God. Say to Him, "Lord, You are the God who put the stars and the planets into space. You are the God who formed the earth, and separated the land from the sea. Then You made man and everything there is. When man fell, You set about to redeem him. You are the God who carved out a nation for Himself and preserved it through history. You are the God who performed wonder after wonder. You are the God who wrote out the law on tablets of stone. You are the God who enabled Your people to walk out of Egypt. You drowned Pharaoh's army. You are the God who came into this world in human form, and then raised Jesus from the dead." Your little problem pales in comparison to what God has done. We struggle because we don't truly define our God. We don't record for our own edification the record of His past performance. Praise is not only glorifying to God, but it also affirms our confidence in Him. We praise and glorify God by reciting His attributes, reciting His works, and by...

3. GIVING THANKS FOR HIS ATTRIBUTES AND WORKS

I believe that in the midst of praise is thanksgiving.

a. Luke 17:11-19 -- "And it came to pass, as He went to Jerusalem, that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as He entered into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when He saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests..." (vv. 11-14a). If a leper wanted to enter back into society when he had some remission of his disease, he had to show himself to the priest in order to verify that he had the right to do so. They believed that the disease was contagious. Verse 14 says, "...And it came to pass that, as they went, they were cleansed." They had to take a step of faith first based on what they had heard about Jesus. The narrative continues, "And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks; and he was a Samaritan" (vv. 15-16). He was a half-breed, an outcast. Only one glorified God, and he did so by giving Him thanks for His power, the attribute that allowed Christ to heal him. That is the sum of praise.

The narrative continues, "And Jesus, answering, said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, except this stranger. And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way; thy faith hath made thee well" (vv. 17-19). I believe that all ten were healed, but only the Samaritan was redeemed. God is glorified when we express our realization that His power and His acts have been on our behalf.

b. 1 Corinthians 15:10 -- The Apostle Paul said, "But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace, which was bestowed upon me, was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than they all;

yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." God and His power touched Paul's life.

First Peter 4:11 says, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth, that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ...." In other words, if you speak the oracles of God or serve in the ministry, it is because He has allowed you to. He deserves all the glory. Someone said, "Like a silkworm when she weaves her work hides herself under the silk and is never seen, so when we have done anything worthy of praise we remain hidden and pass the praise on to God." Praising God gives Him glory. And no matter what happens in our lives, we are to recognize His attributes and gracious works, and express our thanks to Him.

Spiritual growth is a result of glorifying God. We will grow when our lives are filled with praise, fruit, and trust in Him. As we live by focusing on His glory, we are changed from one level of glory to the next, moving toward the very image of Christ.

Focusing on the Facts

1. According to Romans 4:20, how did Abraham glorify God?
2. What do you do to God when you don't believe what He has said?
3. What did Abraham believe would happen to Isaac even if he had of killed him? (see Heb. 11:17-19)
4. How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego manifest their trust in God? (see Dan. 3:16-18)
5. How did Noah manifest his trust in God? (see Gen. 14-22)
6. How did the ten spies dishonor God? How did Caleb and Joshua honor God? (see Num. 13:30, 33)
7. What does fruitfulness in the life of the believer accomplish? How much fruitfulness? (see Jn. 15:8)
8. Why is it important that the world see fruit in a believer's life? (see Mt. 5:16)
9. What is fruit in the life of a believer? (see Phil. 1:11)
10. List the various types of action fruit. Explain each one.
11. What was significant about the gift that the Philippians gave to Paul? (see Phil. 4:17)
12. Define attitude fruit. (see Gal. 5:22-23)
13. What must precede the other: attitudes or actions? Explain.

14. Fill in the blank: "Action fruit without attitude fruit is _____."
15. How does a Christian gain the right attitudes? (see Gal. 5:25)
16. Why don't proud people take the time to praise God? What kind of people do praise God?
17. What is the hymn book in the Bible that is filled with praise? Give some examples of its praise.
18. What are the three things that true praise involves?
19. What is one good reason for studying the Old Testament?
20. How did Habakkuk solve his problem?
21. How are God's attributes put on display?
22. Why was Habakkuk able to trust God?
23. How did the Samaritan leper glorify God after he had been cleansed? (see Lk. 17:15-16)

Pondering the Principles

1. Read Philippians 4:19. Do you believe that verse is true for you? Give some examples from your life that have manifested your trust in God for your needs. But is that verse always true about your trust of God? Give some examples from your life when you haven't trusted Him. Did you realize that each time you didn't trust God in a situation that you were dishonoring Him? With that in mind, are there any circumstances that you are presently facing that you are not trusting God to handle for you? What are they? Start today to put those circumstances and any future circumstances under God's control.
2. Are you producing fruit in your life? Review the section on the kinds of fruit. Which of the action fruits are you producing in your life? On a scale of 1-10, rate your production level of each of the action fruits. What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses? Why are you having trouble producing certain fruit in your life? What is your attitude about your Christian walk? Perhaps you have some wrong attitudes that are affecting your production. Read Galatians 5:22-23. On a scale of 1-10, rate your attitude in each of the areas of the fruit of the Spirit. Based on your ratings, why are you having trouble producing action fruit in your life? If you would like to bear much fruit, what changes in attitude do you need to make in your life? Make the commitment to begin changing today.
3. Do you think that you praise God as often as you should? Look up the following verses: Psalm 8:3-9; 9:1-2; 19:1-6; 29:3-9; 65:9-13; 86:11-12; 138:1-2; 139:1-12. In what ways did David recite God's attributes and works, and thank Him for both? Take this time to do the same as David. Praise God for His attributes and His works--not only in history but in your life as well. Finally, thank Him for His attributes and His work on your behalf. Make a commitment to praise God daily.

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