

SERIES: POWER

SET 10: POWER OF PRAISE

**SONGS: Oh FOR 1000 TONGUES
SING TO THE LORD**

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. This is your host Barbara Sandbek. We hope you've been enjoying this series on POWER. Today, before I conclude it, I'd like to summarize some of the things we've covered:

- **God is the source of all power.**
- **We receive the Holy Spirit's power when we place our trust in Jesus.**
- **The more we surrender our will to God, the more His power can operate in our lives.**
- **Through this power, we can seek to live a holy life and find the power in purity.**
- **In our human weaknesses, God's power is made manifest through us, because they keep us dependent on God, the power source.**
- **The truths in the Bible also give us power. It acts like a cleansing agent, a light to guide us, and a faith builder. When we apply its truths, we have power over evil.**
- **There is power in God's presence. There we gain understanding and fullness of joy, which is our strength. God uses trials to call us to Himself and bring us ultimate contentment as we become God-sufficient.**
- **We should enter God's presence in childlike faith bringing a gift of praise to Him.**

And now...to today's topic - the POWER of Praise.

I'm not a real avid football fan, but recently I watched a rather interesting game with my husband. The team that lost really seemed to be the better team, but they made a lot of errors - most of which were centered around the field goal kicker. The news reporter said that no one was talking to him after his third botch-up. I felt kind of sorry for him, even though I said, "They pay him what? to kick a ball?" Anyway, I enjoyed seeing the crowd. They were decked out in their team's colors and one guy even had body paint all over his shirtless chest. It was cold there. Every time their team would do something great, people would go crazy, raising their hands and shouting at the top of their lungs. And I thought how we, humans, are made to praise – not just with our voices but with our whole being. The trouble is, we're uninhibited in our praise of everything but God, and what He does for us warrants extravagant praise. After all, with Christ as our Captain, we are on the winning team.

God has decreed holy orders upon us to proclaim His praise from birth.

Psalm 8:2 says...

From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise.

Jesus, Himself, recited this verse to the chief priests and teachers of the law when they became indignant over the children shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David" in the temple.

According to Isaiah 55:12, even the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees clap their hands before the Lord. Why? Because with the curse from the fall of man, came a curse on creation as well. Romans 8 says that creation waits in eager expectation for the Sons of God to be revealed. Then, it, too, will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We have a glorious hope to look forward to – new glorified bodies. Isn't that something to rejoice about?

There's nothing more momentous in the life of a woman than the birth of her first child. For me that was some 28 years ago. I remember it like it was yesterday. I was all nestled in, ready to give the final push, when the doctor said, "Whatever you do, do not take your hands out from under the sterile drapes." I couldn't figure out why he said that, but I want to tell you, when my son was delivered, and they held him up, and he sounded his first cry, my hands instinctively came out from under the drapes to reach out to the son I had so long waited to see.

The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8 that we, as believers, are in the throws of childbirth, waiting expectantly for the deliverance of our bodies into their sinless state. When Christ comes again, the joy of child birth will pale in comparison to the radiant joy we'll feel when we see our Savior. If we've never raised our hands here on earth in praise, we won't be able to keep from raising them as we reach out to the One we've so long waited to see, Jesus Christ, Our Savior.

***** O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES *****

I've shared that illustration and song in concert many times. Sometimes I sense its effectiveness and sometimes I don't.

We often conduct two concerts in one day. One particular day we had completed the first one, then spent the afternoon walking the boardwalk in the damp air. I found myself struggling to complete the evening service. I must admit, I was glad to get it over with. No one stopped to say they were blessed, and only a few people bought our products. I wasn't surprised. After all, I wasn't impressed with it.

A year and a half later we returned to that church and presented another concert. About that time I'd been trying to figure out how faith healing worked. It seemed to be real on TV, but I never knew anyone personally who was miraculously healed.

Many folks stopped to talk with me that night, and I noticed a lady waiting on the side. After everyone else was finished she came up and said that she wanted to tell me what had happened to her the last time we were there. She said she'd had an infection in her finger. It hurt so much she stopped using it, then she stopped moving her arm. She developed bursitis so bad, she couldn't even raise her arm half way up.

She said that for some reason, she always receives things from the Lord much better when she raises her hands. When I had talked about raising hands to the Lord, she wanted to, but said to the Lord, "You know I can't raise my arm." He kept telling her to do it anyway, so she did. To her amazement, both arms went up. She said she figured it was only temporary...but she was healed.

I didn't touch her. In fact, I didn't even know what was going on. I just sang the Lord's praises, in my croaking voice. His power was brought down, and her obedience, through faith, made her whole. God does heal, but He does it His way.

What's keeping you from praising the Lord? Is there a healing that God wants to give you if you but break through and be obedient?

I want to conclude with another personal experience. On occasion I'm beset with a problem with phlegm. It can pose a real hindrance to a singer. Before one of my concerts, I decided to reread the Scripture I was going to share. I was losing the phlegm battle badly that day, and stopped reading to plead with the Lord to remove it. I was doing His work, couldn't He spare me the trouble?

I'd heard that it was good to pray the Psalms, so I went to David's lamenting ones. You know the ones that say "Woe it me", and "Why have you forsaken me?" It felt right. After all, that's how I was feeling. But nothing happened. Then I turned to the praise Psalms and began to read. Before I knew it, the phlegm was gone.

**God commands us to praise Him in ALL things.
When we do, we'll find that there is POWER IN PRAISE.**

***** SING TO THE LORD *** 2:55**

I pray you've enjoyed this series. I know I've grown a lot through studying for it. If you've been blessed, it would encourage us greatly to hear from you – so please drop us a line.

You can write to ...

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