

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Prayer Meeting
Praise with and in the Holy Spirit: Seven Phrases to Praises
Mark G
March 27, 2011

I. INTRODUCTORY FACTS -

CCC 2639 Praise is the form of prayer which most recognizes most immediately that God is God. It lauds God for his own sake and gives him glory, quite beyond what he does, but simply because He IS. **Exodus** “ I am who I am” **Ps 50:7** I am God, your God **Ps 52:7** Your God Reigns.. We all experience this!!!

First, the scriptures encourage us, command us to praise God, Ps 145:21 My mouth will speak of the Praise of the Lord and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever... All flesh, that would be you! When we praise we enter deeply into the Spirit, we are entering deep “fellowship/communion” with God the Holy Spirit. Praise in the Holy Spirit helps us enter a spiritual gateway into God’s presence....and thus experience a deep intimacy with Him. The Holy Spirit then transports us to very personal relationship place of sonship -“ Abba Father”!

Someone said to me “I have a resistance in me to praise”... So did I. When I first went to a prayer meeting I said to myself, “ I don’t feel comfortable” “I could never do that..” but Authentic praise lifts you beyond the “me condition” to the “dare to be ” to a freedom of the Spirit or out of me to - the mystical door of the Spirit...

A. Praise is not natural, it is spiritual. The Holy Spirit desires to release this love of God expressed in Praise within your spirit ... Romans 5:5 God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit... St Basil writes in **On the Holy Spirit** “God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying Abba Father... it all comes to pass through the Holy Spirit... “Who is so ignorant of the good things which God has prepared for those who are worthy, that he does not understand the crown of the righteous man is precisely the grace of the Spirit” ... Praise God for Holy Spirit grace and ask for more grace of Spirit ...

B. This Spirit’s fellowship within us illuminates interiorly to recognize God within for who he is and praise Him in the good and bad in life..... Authentic Praise gets beyond the results oriented culture of our day ...

Dare to still praise him for being God even when your boats of life appear to be sinking...

A Trappist Monk of thirty years in a Catholic monastery once told me that the Prayer of Praise is the most profound prayer he practices in struggles. Over the years he had dared to see the Spirit in trials of his austere life but Praise got him through very disciplined life. Baptism in the Spirit, made Praise alive to him...

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The easy answer to life's trials is grumble, blame and complain but this is all a symptom of unbelief in all present God our Father.

Ps 146:1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live..

1 Thes. 5:6-8 Always be joyful. Always keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

2 Cor 13:14 The love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

- C. There are three ways to focus our mind on praising God: See God on His throne (Rev. 4), God in our spirit and God omnipresent. The Spirit flows from the throne onto creation, the church, then into your heart which is sometimes referred to as our "innermost man." We turn the attention of our mind to the indwelling Spirit (in our spirit) to grow in the deep things of God.
- D. Authentic praise originates in fellowship with God which includes a two-way dialogue. The Spirit honors our part in the relationship by not forcing us to dialogue with Him if we do not want it. He does not force conversation or friendship with anyone who does not have an authentic desire or hunger for it. In this fellowship one discovers love.
1. Holy Spirit love requires a voluntary response to an awesome being of love – God our Father. Praise Him out of knowledge of who God is. Authentic love exists in perfect freedom and God in his perfect love leaves us free to choose him... He beckons us to a deeper and more continual conversation with him that leads one in Praise.
- E. The Scripture describes the operation of the Spirit in us as God's light, fire, or river. The Spirit operates in us as a **revealing light** that overpowers confusion, accusation, and rejection (Jn. 1:5). He is a **consuming fire** that imparts love as it tenderizes us and devours all that gets in the way of love, like bitterness and addictions (Lk. 24:32; Jn. 5:35). He is a **flowing river**, connecting our heart with the free flowing spontaneous activity of God (Jn. 7:37-39).

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Jn. 1:5, RSV

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- F. St. Basil – Only in this special place .. of the Spirit when Moses entered this place God revealed Himself to Him. Only in this special place can true worship be offered. The Law says “Take heed that you so not offer your burnt offering, at every place that you see, but at the place which the Lord shall choose...” But what is a spiritual burnt offering, but the sacrifice of praise. Where can we offer this? Only in the Holy Spirit... Our greatest inheritance is our inner man being touched by the Holy Spirit.

Journal with Holy Spirit: We all do these journals I know but I thought I'd just share a couple I stumbled across as I prepared this month..... if you don't journal, start!

1/31/92 Let the center of your life be to Praise the Lord It is in giving praises that blessings and healings are poured out upon you. The Psalmist writes this truth “let the people of Israel rejoice in their Maker... Psalm 149 Yes praise empowers our heart with new hope in the Lord...

Praise leads to healing the Lord says to me. The Lord says he wants to heal the brokenhearted and bind up any psychological wounds within us.... Praise the Lord who heals me...

2/2/92 The Lord has told me to offer praise to him. So I am today. As I read through the scriptures all of the verses of praise seem to come alive to me– they jump out. It is as if God wanted me today to notice these scriptures for the first time. Something new out of something old... I guess one might expect this with the living Word of God who speaks his words to his servants... And so Lord, I praise you for being my great creator and creator of all the earth. You make all that is and bless us with good things of this earth.. I praise you for this day.

Ted Kershaw spoke yesterday as we hovering over MOG in His presence, speak affectionately saying to God, “I love You”, speak slowly , softly , briefly , and minimally .

II. SEVEN PRACTICAL “PHRASES OF PRAISES” – A MODEL TO USE IN PRAISING THE INDWELLING SPIRIT DURING YOUR DAYS...

I'm not there yet... I'm not saying I have all the answers but I share some of the things I've learned here at MOG over 30 years... He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (Jn. 15:5)

P – Practice His presence – In Praise:

Repeat: Praise the Lord for being present to us....

Be certain, that when you praise the Spirit is there with you!! We live in the Spirit's presence always ...driving your car, doing your chores, talking to others, that same Spirit is simultaneously with you and before the Throne of the Father.....praising the Lord...and will begin this Praise in you –

Where does the rubber meet the road? Reality? Prayer Time: In the first, place yourself in His presence. Second, call on Holy Spirit . Thirdly, Praise Him out loud....As I praise I've noticed I enter His presence.... Then as I surrender to tongues I give permission to God into all the doors interiorly become open to God... and Praise opens a door into heaven.... And there the Spirit slows it down... dial life down... Spirit's indwelling presence in you simply worship Him for being God. Pray, “Praise and Thank you Holy Spirit, for Your life presence in me. I love Your presence.

R – Redeemer - Release Revelation Remember the truths:

Repeat: Praise you Lord for redeeming me... Now I Praise you that I might have knowledge of my redeemer Jesus....his presence....What did he redeem me from was one state to a divine state.

- My desire is to want to enter the heavenly realm around me .. Show me what you showed the Apostles .. I want to see the Glory Open my eyes oh Lord!!!Ask the Spirit to release revelation of the realm of God's glory and praise in your heart.

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- Pray, “Praise you Holy Spirit, open my eyes to see my redeemer and the realm of God’s presence and there to encounter God’s heart.”

... may God give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him... Eph. 1:17)

A – Audible Attributes ----

Repeat: We praise you oh Lord for you are wisdom, goodness and power!

Diane shared yesterday “I have a voice” and yes .. God wants to hear it in Praise...

Scripture says : Palms 135 - hears my voice in prayer... Ps 130 out of the depths I cry to you.. Lk 19:40 if we keep quiet the stones will cry out!!!

- I have noticed such difference in my breakthroughs in prayer when I pray audibly. Watchmen Nee.. evangelist to China... imprisoned and martyred for faith wrote in The Spiritual Man .. learn to pray audibly..with an active mind... When we pray out loud it is one means of opening the spirit. “But in situations one needs to pray aloud.. the best thing for the saint to do is to “claim the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ over every onslaught of the enemy” I proclaim the victorious name of Jesus Christ over _____ .

St Basil writes “ **How can the Seraphim sing Holy Holy Holy without the Spirit teaching them to constantly raise their voices in praise”..**

Example: When I first was baptized in the Spirit my brother and I went to Spiritual directors at St Joseph’s monastery. I was practicing contemplative prayer five years... very passive mind... I sunk into introvert.. weighted down inside and depressed... During prayer I felt like I was sinking into self-centeredness, consciousness to much.... Then when I came to community I was taught an active prayer....to Praise the lord out loud... to focus on Resurrected Jesus in Holy spirit

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... (1 Cor. 12:7)

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I - Increase:

Repeat: Praise you Lord that you have more for me...

Your perfect will is for us to increase faith. CCC. 2639 "Praise is pure faith" ... John the Baptist "That you might increase and I might decrease... Increase on earth as it is in Heaven... when I praise I increase faith..."

- **Bob Roche had a cool sharing yesterday..** he saw increase in tongues..

My days can change if I stop "myself" to Praise the Lord.. As I enter praise I live this scripture of His increase... His Presence increases in me... **Example: "Let me see what You see and feel what You feel and say what You want to say for _____."** I ask this about many different people. Recently at a brotherhood meeting and he was very critical of me...

St Basil "Likewise those who have grieved the Holy spirit by their evil ways or have not increased the talents given, will be deprived of what they have received, and their share of grace will be given to others or as one of the Gospels says, they will be completely cut to pieces meaning that they will be separated from the Spirit forever....."

Give me a word for _____. Ask the Spirit to use you more and more in the spiritual gifts to minister to others. We pray, "Praise you Holy Spirit, for releasing the manifestation of Your gifts and power through me to help others."

Praise him for His coming Kingship in your life... That he might increase and I might decrease... Ask Him to **teach you about God's kingdom, that we burn for evangelism "Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel.... 1 Cor 9:16 Word, will, and ways,** and to manifest His leadership in every issue in your life including finances, schedule, circumstances, emotions, physical body (diet, health), relationships, and alignment of the people you are responsible for (home, office, ministry).

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S – Sacrifice of Praise - spirit of sacrifice:

Repeat: Praise you Lord for your perfect sacrifice ... May I sacrifice for _____.

St Basil calls praise a spiritual burnt offering... The spirit is a special place where true worship is offered... Praise strengthens that which is spiritual within you. The Holy Spirit strengthens your mind, emotions, and speech with His divine might. **Recognize that His love, joy, and peace are already in our spirit** because He is in us (Gal. 5:22-23). There are 9 virtues that the HS will manifest in you... Therefore, pray: thank him for what is already in you..... “Thank you for the presence of Your love, peace, patience, and self-control in me.”

... To be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man... (Eph. 3:16)

E- Everlasting...

Repeat: Praise you Lord that you are an everlasting God... that he is the same yesterday, today and forever....

Praise you for everlasting light ... that you are our Glory .. and everlasting joy is ours... Praise Him that his love is constantly pouring out into you.

I always start my prayer time with 15 – 20 minutes of just Praising God for who he is... I then talk to you about your future, including new opportunities, new ideas, as well giving you insight into your fears, failure or addictions. He will give us ideas and insights and will order our steps and open doors of opportunity for strategic alliances in each area, as we ask Him.

S- Spirit

Repeat: Praise you God the Holy Spirit our comforter and strength.

Spirit has given us all a "Spiritual Affinity" that's what we all have in common... basis of our spiritual affinity here at MOG is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. St Basil says we are all called to be able to distinguish the difference between water baptism and Baptism in the Holy Spirit.... I praise you Jesus that you are the Baptizer in the Spirit

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Men Stand up... We are going to be God's men forming a praising wall... The Jews have the wailing wall and we have the Praising wall... Loud voices: Repeat:

1. Praise the Father who commands.
2. Praise Jesus the word who creates...
3. Praise the Holy Spirit who strengthens..

Audibly pray praise to God - Attributes of God... When you praise audibly confess the attributes of God My favorite Saint is and he mentions frequently to praise God for his infinite wisdom, power and goodness..

“Spirit, let me see what You see and feel what you feel, then release it with power through me.”

In summary, Praise is the form of prayer which most recognizes most immediately that God is God. It lauds God for his own sake and gives him glory, quite beyond what he does, but simply because He IS .