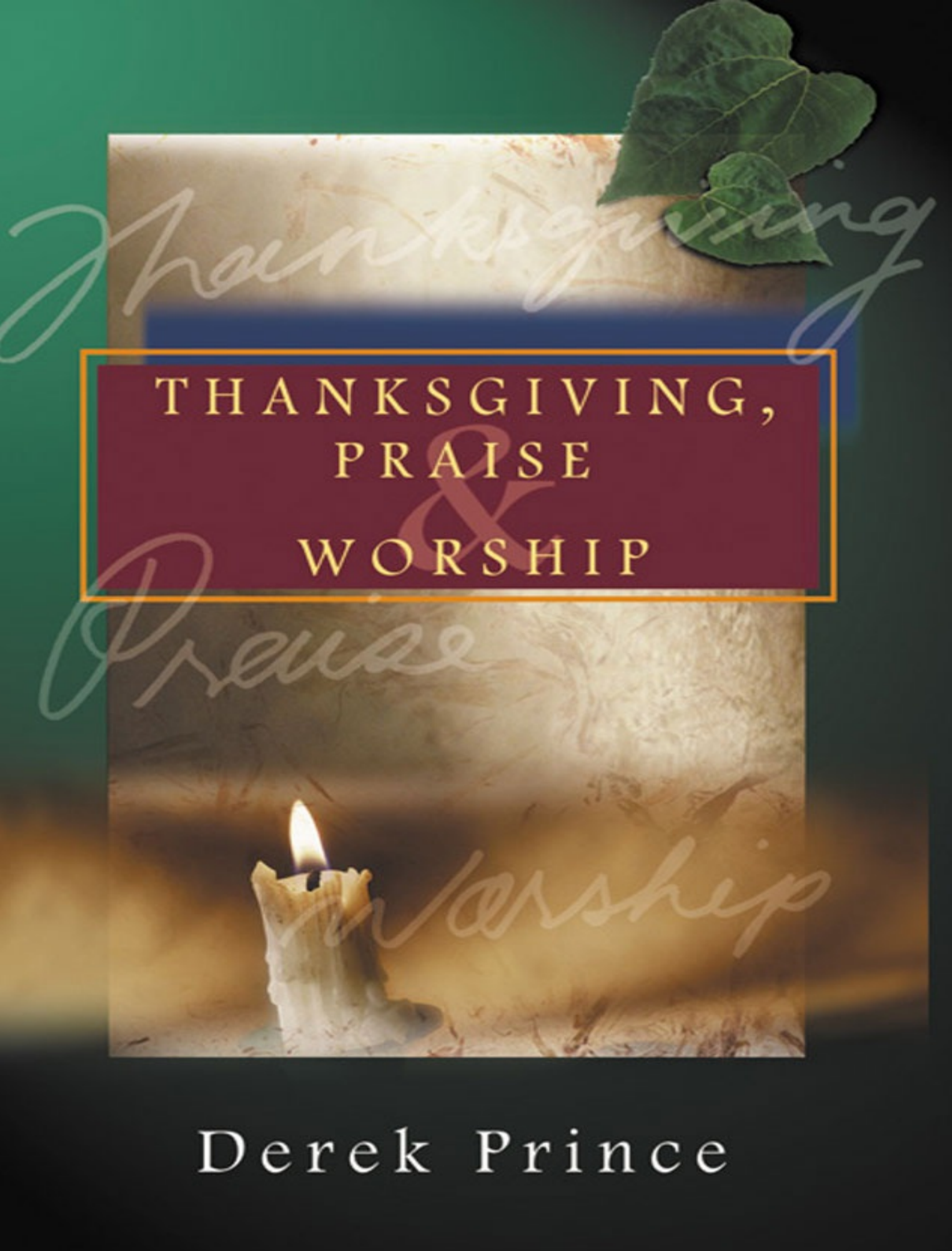

THANKSGIVING, PRAISE & WORSHIP

Derek Prince

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Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship

incorporating
Prayers and
Proclamations
from the personal treasury of Derek and Ruth Prince

Introduction

Many people have the impression that prayer is simply a matter of asking God for things – going to God, as it were, with their shopping list. This is a very limited and inadequate view of prayer. Prayer is not just one musical instrument; it is the whole orchestra, with many different instruments. In this book we will be dealing with three of them: thanksgiving, praise and worship.

These are all essential parts of prayer. If you have formed the habit of coming to God with your shopping list without integrating into it thanksgiving and praise, I am afraid you will return from your shopping trips many times without the things you wanted. You need to understand that God has laid down certain conditions by which we can approach Him. First and foremost, there is no access to God without thanksgiving and praise.

A couple of years ago I was talking to a man I greatly respect whose name is well known in this country. About my age, he has been a Christian longer than I have. He heard me say that we cannot get near to God without thanksgiving and praise. 'In all the years I've been a Christian,' he told me in surprise, 'I have never heard that before.' This principle revolutionised his prayer life. We are dealing with a principle, therefore, of vital importance for a fruitful and successful prayer life.

Let me offer at the outset a simple way to distinguish among these three activities – thanksgiving, praise and worship. Each of these is a way to approach and relate to God. Each also relates us to a different aspect of God's character.

• By *thanksgiving* we acknowledge *God's goodness*. • By *praise* we acknowledge *God's greatness*.

• By *worship* we acknowledge *God's holiness*.

Thus, thanksgiving relates us to the goodness of God. Praise relates us to the greatness of God. Worship, the highest activity of the human spirit, relates us to the holiness of God.

1

Thanksgiving

A good starting point for our study of the first of these activities, thanksgiving, is provided by Hebrews 12:28:

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

There is a very remarkable difference between this and the *New International Version*. Where the *New King James* says, 'Let us have grace,' the NIV says, 'Let us be thankful.' Each of these, however, is a correct translation, because in Greek to have grace – and the key word is *charis* – is to say, 'thank you'. (Interestingly, the modern Greek word for 'thank you' is *eucharisto*, which is directly related to *charis*, grace.) Thus, there is a direct connection between grace and thankfulness. An unthankful person is a person out of the grace of God. You cannot be unthankful and be in the grace of God.

Three other modern languages also bring this out. In French, *grâce à Dieu* means 'thanks to God'. The word *grâce* is spelled exactly as we spell the English word. In Italian, the word for 'thank you' is *grazie*, directly related once again to grace. And in Spanish, *grácias*. You can see, then, that these three Romance languages (languages based on Latin) all retain the direct connection between grace and thankfulness.

This is a tremendously important point: when we are unthankful, we are out of the grace of God. We cannot enjoy God's grace without being thankful. Nor can we separate thankfulness from the grace of God. And whether we say, 'Let us be thankful,' or, 'Let us have grace,' we are really saying the same thing.

Here are four statements about thankfulness – requirements,

really – from four different epistles of Paul. Starting with Colossians 3:15:

> *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

That is not a suggestion; it is a command: Be thankful. Paul goes on in verses 16-17:

> *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

In all that we do we need to be guided by two principles: doing it 'in the name of the Lord Jesus' and 'giving thanks to God through Him'. That sets a wonderful boundary! Young people sometimes ask, 'Is it all right for me to do this or that?' I

reply, ‘If you can do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Him, it’s all right. If you can’t, it’s not.’ That sets the limit to what we are free to do.

Giving thanks, then, is not an option: it is a command.

Second, in Ephesians 5:18, Paul speaks about what it means to be filled continually with the Holy Spirit:

> *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.*

Isn’t it remarkable how much the Church has focused on the negative and ignored the positive? Everybody knows you should not be drunk with wine, but how many know you should be filled with the Spirit?

And what is the result of being filled with the Spirit? Verse 19 tells us:

> *. . . 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.*

When you are full of the Holy Spirit, you will continually give God thanks. In fact, you can measure the fullness of the Spirit within you partly by that very criterion – how much time you spend giving God thanks. When you cease to do so, it is one sure indication you are beginning to leak out.

Paul's third statement (or requirement) about thankfulness is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, some of the shortest verses in the New Testament, but filled with powerful truths:

Rejoice always, . . .

Very simple to say, isn't it? It takes more grace to do it!

. . . pray without ceasing, . . .

Never come to the end of praying. You do not have to pray all the time, but never, on the other hand, say, 'Now I'm finished praying.' It was said of Smith Wigglesworth, I believe, that he never prayed more than half an hour at a time but he never went half an hour without praying. That is a good picture of what it means to pray without ceasing.

The last of Paul's pithy requirements from 1 Thessalonians 5:

. . . in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

What is the will of God in Christ Jesus? To give thanks in everything. So if you are not giving thanks, as we have already seen, you are actually out of the will of God.

I have talked to many Christian workers who were in the right place, doing the right job, but still felt out of the will of God. It was not because of the place or the job; it was because they had ceased to be continually thankful. So remember, the moment you cease to be thankful, you are out of the will of God – not necessarily for what you are doing, but because you are not responding appropriately to God's goodness.

In Philippians 4:6 we come to the fourth of Paul's requirements regarding thankfulness:

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Never bring a request to God without thanksgiving.

Years ago the journals of John Wesley tremendously impressed me. I always remember his comment on this verse. From the phrase, 'In everything by prayer and supplication,' Wesley isolated three words, *everything by prayer*, and said, 'I am persuaded God does everything by prayer and nothing without it,' I believe this is a basic truth.

Paul is saying, moreover, 'Whatever request you have, bring it with thanksgiving.'

Now that we have looked at four separate exhortations of the apostle Paul concerning thankfulness, let us consider two important functions that it accomplishes.

First, *thankfulness provides access to God*. The best place to see this is in Psalm 100, a familiar and very beautiful psalm. Talking about coming into the house of God, the psalmist writes in the fourth verse:

> *Enter into His gates with*
> *thanksgiving,*
> *And into His courts with*
> *praise.*
> *Be thankful to Him,*
> *and bless His name.*

Notice there are two stages of access to God. The first is through the gates; the second is through His courts. The gates give you admission to the courts, and the courts give you access to the actual house of God. But you cannot enter except by the prescribed route – 'into His gates with thanksgiving,

and into His courts with praise'. I am convinced that a person gains no close access to God unless he or she comes this prescribed way – with thanksgiving and praise.

Some of you may feel at times, despite your prayers, that you are a long way from God. Quite possibly the reason is that you are not approaching Him by the prescribed route. You can stand outside the courts and shout at God, and He will hear and have mercy on you. But you will not enjoy close access to the Father unless you come with thanksgiving and praise.

Some people may grumble, 'I don't have anything to thank God for. Things are going wrong. My life is in a state of turmoil. Why should I thank Him?' Well, the psalmist has given three reasons in verse 5 to thank God:

> *For the LORD is good;*
> *His mercy is everlasting,*
> *And His truth endures to all*
> *generations.*

No matter how we feel, no matter what our circumstances, three facts never change: the Lord is always good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations. So we have three permanent, unchanging reasons for thanking God.

Don't focus on your feelings. Don't focus on your situation. Focus on these eternal, unchanging aspects of God's nature and of His dealings with us. Then you will find yourself thanking God ceaselessly.

Let us look at an illustration in the New Testament of the special access to God that thankfulness provides. Do you remember the ten lepers from Luke 17 who were not allowed to come near anybody? They had to shout continually, 'Unclean, unclean,' warning everybody to stay out of their way since their disease was so contagious.

Luke's account records that they lifted up their voices from a distance and shouted to Jesus, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' Jesus gave them a very simple reply: 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.'

Now, a person cleansed from leprosy had to present himself to the priest to receive a certificate declaring he was no longer infectious. So, by telling them to go and show themselves to the priest, Jesus was saying, 'By the time you get there, the priest will certify that you no longer have leprosy.' That, you see, is faith. Sometimes we are healed as we go. If we just stand still and say nothing has happened, nothing will happen.

Well, all ten were cleansed of leprosy; but only one – who happened to be a Samaritan, not a Jew – returned to give Jesus thanks. Jesus said:

> *'Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?'(Luke 17:17-18)*

Then he said to the man (according to the Greek), 'Your faith has saved you, go in peace.' It does not come out that clearly in the English translation that, although all ten lepers were cleansed, only the one who returned to give Jesus thanks was

saved. Each of them had a physical healing but only the one who came back to offer thanks received the eternal spiritual healing of salvation. He was the only one who came close to Jesus. You see, thanksgiving provides special access to God.

The second vitally important function of thanksgiving is that it *unlocks the supernatural miracle power of God*. I will offer two notable New Testament examples. The first of these is the feeding of the five thousand recorded in John 6. Jesus had a crowd of five thousand men (not including women and children) in front of Him, all of them hungry. His only resource was the lunch of a little boy – five small loaves and two fishes. But He said, 'Make the multitudes sit down; we're going to feed them.' And this is what transpired in verses 11 and 12 of John 6:

> *And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down, and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, 'Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.'*

It is noteworthy that in this situation Jesus did not pray. He did not ask God to do a thing. All He did was thank God for what He had in His hand.

John must have been impressed by this because in verse 23, describing something that followed, he wrote:

> *. . . other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks . . .*

It had apparently been impressed upon John that the miracle was released not by some long prayer, but simply by Jesus giving thanks! I really believe that many times we miss out on the power of God simply because we do not release it by giving thanks.

A little later, in the eleventh chapter of John, we find a second example of this principle. As Jesus stood before the tomb of Lazarus who had been buried four days, He did not pray a long prayer. He said simply, 'Father, I thank you that You have heard Me.' That is all He said. Then He spoke to Lazarus – and out came Lazarus!

I will say once again that unless we cultivate the habit of thanking God the way it is described here, we will miss out on much of the supernatural power of God. Such power is not necessarily released by long prayers. Most of the really powerful prayers in the Bible, in fact, are very short. (I think of Moses' prayer for Miriam when she was smitten with leprosy because of criticising her brother. All Moses said was, 'Lord, heal her.') Quite the contrary, then. If we mix more thanksgiving with our petitions, our petitions may be shorter and actually

more effective.

Before concluding our discussion of thankfulness, we need to look at the dark side to this truth, the opposite of being thankful. The Bible has a great deal to say about unthankfulness, but here are just three significant statements.

The first appears in Romans 1, where Paul, in a most masterly way, outlines the decline of the human race from the inherent knowledge of God to appalling wickedness. Romans 1 ends with one of the most horrible lists in the Bible of human degradation, misery and wickedness.

We might well ask ourselves: how is it that humanity could ever decline to that level? The answer is given in verse 21:

> *. . . Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful . . .*

Paul thus describes the first two downward steps that lead into the dark pit described at the end of the chapter: first, the people did not glorify God as God; and second, they were not thankful.

Every time a person ceases to be thankful, he or she starts down a slippery path. Let me warn you: do not even start on that path because it is hard to turn and make your way back up again!

The second important biblical observation about unthankfulness appears in 2 Timothy 3 which contains another fearful list. It is interesting to compare it to the one in Romans

1, which is what I call the logical outworking of unthankfulness. 2 Timothy 3 is the historical outworking. What is humanity going to be like in the last days, at the close of the age? The apostle Paul gives us this picture, beginning in verse 1:

> *But know this, that in the last days, perilous times will come:*

What will bring the perilous times? The decline of human character. Verse 2:

> *For men will be lovers of themselves* [that is the root of the whole problem], *lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy* . . .

Where does the unthankful person find his place in the list? Next to the unholy. To be unthankful is to be unholy. You cannot be holy and unthankful. And thankfulness is a major step towards being holy.

What kind of conduct is the opposite of being thankful? The

best Bible word, I think, is 'murmuring' – in more modern English, 'complaining'. Let me suggest that whenever we say anything, it is either positive or negative. Very few words are neutral. If we are not expressing gratitude, therefore, we will almost certainly end up murmuring and complaining. Do not be that kind of person!

Third and last, let us look at what Paul says about unthankfulness in 1 Corinthians 10:7-10. He is warning Christians against falling into the same errors Israel fell into after they were delivered out of Egypt:

> *And do not become idolaters, as were some of them . . . Nor let us commit sexual immorality . . . nor let us tempt Christ . . . nor complain* [in KJV, *murmur*], *as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.*

One warning against murmuring is found in Numbers 21. Israel became discouraged and impatient because of their long, wearisome journey. They began to murmur against God and Moses. God responded by sending fiery serpents among them, and the people began to die.

Take warning! Murmuring may expose you to fiery serpents. Their bite may not be physical, but it will inject all sorts of poison into your spirit.

We are faced, then, with two opposite possibilities: being

thankful, which opens the way to God's presence and to His miracle – working power, or being a murmurer. Make up your mind. Set your will: *'I am going to be thankful. I am going to continue to find the scriptural reasons for being thankful. And I am going to practice thanking God all the time.'*

2

Praise

As previously stated, three activities of the human spirit – thanksgiving, praise and worship – enable us to relate to three different aspects of God's nature. By thanksgiving for all the

kind, good things He does for us, we acknowledge God's goodness. By praise – our appropriate response to His awe-inspiring majesty – we acknowledge God's greatness. And by worship we acknowledge God's holiness.

In our current focus on praise, it is appropriate to begin with Psalm 48:1:

> *Great is the LORD,* and greatly to be praised
> *In the city of our God,*
> *In His holy mountain.*

Our praise, in other words, should be in proportion to God's greatness – which means it has to be measureless. We can never exhaust the power and the possibility of praise. The more we praise God, the more we acknowledge His greatness.

We have already seen from Psalm 100 that thanksgiving is the first stage in our approach to God. The second stage is praise.

Both thanksgiving and praise have an important upbuilding effect on the believer. When we come to God with requests that seem very difficult, it is easier to believe God for what we want Him to do next when we thank Him for all He has already done. If we do not come with praise and thanksgiving, on the other hand, we lack this catalyst for our faith.

Let us look once again at Psalm 100:4-5:

Enter into His gates with
thanksgiving,
And into His courts with
praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless
His name.

It is by no means wearisome to repeat the three unchanging reasons for thanking and praising God:

For the LORD is good, His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all
generations.

Why not repeat these three reasons aloud right now as an act of faith? 'For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations.' Now take time to thank God. That is the application of the lesson!

A description is given in Isaiah 60 of the city of God, the city to which we have the right of access through salvation and through the blood of Jesus. Isaiah 60:18 gives a very beautiful picture of this city:

Violence shall no longer be
heard in your land,
Neither wasting nor destruction

within your borders . . .

We can come to a place where violence and destruction are just faint echoes from a distance; in the presence of God they have no reality. How do we get there?

But you shall call your
walls Salvation,
And your gates Praise.

The wall surrounding the presence of God is Salvation. But all the gates have just one name: Praise. If you want to get in through the walls, in other words, the gate you have to go through is Praise. No praise, no access. Praise is the only way into immediate presence of God.

If you find it difficult to praise God, try taking time to read the Psalms – in Hebrew, 'Praises'. It is by far the longest book in the Bible, making praise a major element in the total revelation of God. Read different psalms out loud when you are alone and say, 'Lord, this is my prayer. It was a prayer given by the Holy Spirit through the psalmist, and I'm reading it now to You.' I believe you will find that, after a little while, praise will become much more natural, and you will begin to cultivate the habit.

To encourage you, here are seven scriptural facts about praise. There are many more, but these seven significant principles will help to build your faith.

Consider first Psalm 22:3, which is addressed to the Lord. In the NKJ it reads:

> *But You are holy,*
> *Enthroned in the praises of*
> *Israel.*

The Hebrew word translated 'enthroned' is also the word for 'to sit on' or 'to inhabit'. As a matter of fact, when people in Israel ask Ruth and me where we live, we answer in Hebrew, 'We are sitting in Jerusalem,' using the standard Hebrew word for 'to inhabit'.

What kind of seat does God sit on? A throne. There is a popular song today that says, 'As we worship, we build Your throne. Come, Lord Jesus, and take Your place.' So when we praise God, we are, in effect, offering Him a throne.

From now on, whenever you join other believers and begin to praise God, picture yourself offering Jesus a throne to sit upon. In this way you acknowledge Him as your King.

Psalm 106:47 reveals how thanksgiving, followed by praise, can bring God's people into total victory:

> *Save us, O LORD our God,* And gather
> us from among the
> *Gentiles,*
> *To give thanks to Your holy*
> *name,*
> *To triumph in Your praise.*

Notice the same order: thanks, then praise. When we praise God, we triumph. In the culture of ancient Rome, a triumph was not the winning of a victory, but the celebration of a victory that had already been won. So when we praise God, we are not asking Him for victory, we are celebrating the fact that He has already won. Paul says as much in 2 Corinthians 2:14:

> *Now thanks be to God who always leads us*
> *in triumph in Christ . . .*

In the triumphal procession, the victorious general was drawn through the streets of Rome in a chariot led by a white horse, while all the people lining the pavements praised him. And his captives, the enemies whom he had defeated, were led in chains behind him.

Where do we belong in this picture? We are not being led in chains behind Jesus Christ, the victorious General. We are not even on the pavement praising Him. Rather, we are riding in the chariot. And praising Him is the step into the chariot.

A third scriptural fact about praise appears in Psalm 30:11-12. I experienced it at first hand in 1975 when I lost my first wife – the hardest experience of my life. I want to say that verse 11 is really true. It works.

> *You have turned for me my*
> *mourning into dancing;*
> *You have put off my sackcloth*
> *and clothed me with*
> *gladness,*

To the end that my glory may
sing praise to You and not
be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to
You forever.

When God removes our sackcloth and delivers us from mourning, He does it for a purpose – that 'our glory' may give praise to Him. What is our glory? There is no need to speculate; we can find the answer directly from Scripture by putting together two other passages.

First in Psalm 16:9 (emphasis mine):

Therefore my heart is glad,
*and **my glory** rejoices,* My flesh also
will rest in hope.

Again, 'my glory'. Different versions translate this differently, but in Acts 2:26 the apostle Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, quotes Psalm 16:9 and interprets the word 'glory' for us:

Therefore my heart rejoiced,
*and **my tongue** was glad . . .*

So what is your glory? Your tongue. The primary reason God gave you a tongue is to praise Him. Any use of it that does not glorify Him is a misuse. The tongue is the supreme member with which you can praise God. And it is 'your glory' when you use it to glorify Him.

The fourth spiritual fact about praise is found in Isaiah 61:3. This is a message, once again, for those who have been mourning and depressed. In fact, it was through this verse many years ago that the Lord delivered me from a spirit of depression.

> *. . . To console those who*
> *mourn in Zion,*
> *To give them beauty for ashes,*
> *The oil of joy for mourning,*
> *The garment of praise for the*
> *spirit of heaviness . . .*

That is precisely what God delivered me from – the spirit of heaviness. So if you do not want to be depressed and you do not want Satan to come to you with his dark forebodings and evil thoughts, put on the garment of praise. He will not come near you!

Many years ago when I was pastoring a small congregation in West London, there were two Russian Jewish sisters who used to come and visit my first wife and me. They had met the

Lord Jesus inside Russia and later had been delivered from Russia by a miracle. After their escape they had been filled with the Holy Spirit.

By denomination they were Baptists, but when they prayed with us, they were noisier than most Pentecostals in the West. They knew how to praise the Lord!

Well, the four of us were there having a wonderful time praising the Lord, when there was a ring at our front door. I went to answer it, and there stood a lady who was a member of our congregation, leading a man by the hand.

'This is my husband,' she said. 'He's just come out of prison. He has a demon. Will you pray for him?'

In those days I stayed a long way from demons. I was embarrassed by them. And just now I had no idea what to do. So I said, 'Come up, we're praying.' It was all I could think to say.

So we went upstairs and just went on praying, really making a noise, until the husband came up to me and said, 'I don't like this – too much noise. I'm going.'

God inspired my answer. 'Listen,' I said, 'it's the devil who doesn't like the noise because we're praising Jesus and he hates that. You have two options. If you go now, the devil will go with you. If you stay, the devil will go without you.'

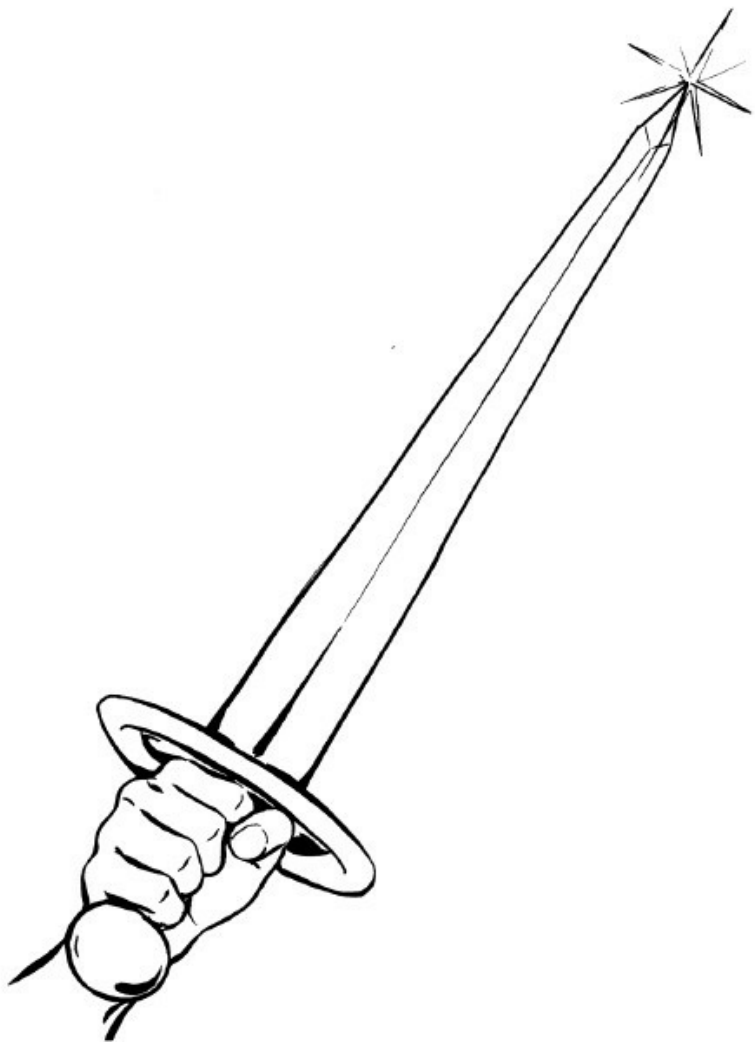
'I'll stay,' he said.

And about ten minutes later he came up to me once again. 'It's gone!' he said. 'I felt it leave my throat.'

I have never forgotten that because it demonstrates how praise embarrasses the devil much more than he can embarrass us.

In Psalm 33:1 the psalmist says that 'praise from the upright is beautiful.' Praise is indeed a beautiful garment for your spirit.

So when you are tempted to be depressed or moody or unhappy, put on the garment of praise in place of the spirit of heaviness. It will work for you just as it worked for me – and for thousands of others!



In Jeremiah 33:11, speaking about the restoration of God's people and the sounds that will be heard in the streets of

Jerusalem, we find a fifth aspect of praise. A beautiful, modern Hebrew song is based on these words:

> *'. . . the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who will say: "Praise the LORD of hosts, For the LORD is good, For His mercy endures forever" –*
> [notice two of the three reasons are there]
> *and of those who will bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD.'*

Some versions refer instead to 'the sacrifice of thanksgiving'. Both renditions make it clear that either praise or thanksgiving is a sacrifice. It costs you something. It is not always easy. And the time that is most important to praise the Lord is the time you least feel like it. Do not let your feelings dictate your response to God's limitless greatness. The Word of God tells you what to do, even when it goes absolutely contrary to your feelings. Hebrews 13:15-16 reinforces this idea:

> *Therefore by Him* [that is, Jesus] *let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.* [How much should we praise God and how often? Continually.] *But do not forget to do good and share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

So praise or thanksgiving is a sacrifice. And it is most acceptable to God when it costs us the most. When everything seems to be against us, that is the time to praise God the most – in faith.

In Psalm 8:2 – and this is the sixth scriptural fact – praise is a spiritual weapon. This is one of my favourite Scriptures. It is difficult for me to preach long without getting to Psalm 8:2, where David says to God:

> *Out of the mouths of babes and*
> *nursing infants*
> *You have* ***ordained strength****,* Because
> of Your enemies,
> *That You may silence the*
> *enemy and the avenger.*

Look first at that phrase 'you have ordained strength'. Here again the New Testament offers a commentary on the Old. From the last week of ministry of Jesus in Jerusalem, we read (Matthew 21:15-16):

> *But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' they were indignant and said to Him, 'Do You hear what these are saying?' And Jesus said to them* [quoting Psalm 8:2], *'Yes. Have you never read, "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants*

*You have **perfected praise**"?'*

Where the psalmist said, 'You have ordained strength,' Jesus said, 'You have perfected praise.' This tells us that the ordained strength of God's people is perfect praise. Regardless of human weakness, the spiritual weapon is irresistible. The psalmist chooses the example of the weakest – babies and nursing infants. Even they become instruments of God's strength when they praise Him, and thereby silence the enemy.

Never forget that God has enemies, and one in particular, 'the enemy and the avenger', Satan.

I was preaching in Lausanne, Switzerland, with a French interpreter some years ago. I was listening to the interpretation since I understand French, and I have never forgotten the rendering of Psalm 8:2: 'God imposes silence on the devil.' When does God impose silence? When we praise Him. Why do we need to silence the devil? Because he is accusing us, all the time, night and day. We might ask God, 'Why don't You silence the devil?' God replies, 'Because I've given you the weapon with which to do it.'

To me, it is a joy to wield the weapon of praise and impose silence on the devil!

Finally, seventh in the list of scriptural facts, praise (like thanksgiving) prepares the way for God's supernatural intervention. Let us look at Psalm 50:23. (Are you noticing how many times we are turning to the Psalms in this theme of praise?) God is speaking:

Whoever offers praise glorifies

Me,
And to him who orders his
conduct aright
I will show the salvation of
God.

In this version the word *aright* (as well as *his*) was inserted by the translators. There is another legitimate way to translate this verse:

> He who offers praise prepares a way so
> that I may show him the salvation of God.

The person who offers praise, in other words, prepares a way for the manifestation of salvation in his situation.

There are some beautiful Old and New Testament examples of this principle. In 2 Chronicles 20, for instance, when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, a vast army marched against him from the east. He knew he had neither the personnel nor the resources to meet that army. So he proclaimed a fast, calling all of God's people Judah together.

As they fasted and prayed, the Lord spoke prophetically through a Levite and told them what to do: 'Simply go down to a certain place. You don't have to fight this battle, the Lord will fight for you.' And Jehoshaphat assured the people, 'Believe in the Lord God, and His prophets, and you will prosper.'

The next day they set out. And this is what happened next. From 2 Chronicles 20:21:

> *And when* [Jehoshaphat] *had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the* LORD*, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying, 'Praise the* LORD*, For His mercy endures forever.'*

Notice that the same reason to praise God comes up again. Now to verse 22:

> *Now when they began to sing and to praise, the* LORD *set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.*

If you read the rest of the story, you will see that God's people did not have to use a single military weapon. The weapon of praise obtained for them total victory. Their enemies turned against each other and killed one another, so that all God's people had to do when they came to the battlefield was

take the plunder. What a tremendous picture of the power of praise!

For a second example, let us look at poor Jonah for a moment, right in the middle of his problems. You know the story. He was in the belly of the fish praying to God. From Jonah 2:2-3:

> *Out of the belly of Sheol I*
> *cried,*
> *And You heard my voice.*
> *For You cast me into the*
> *deep . . .*

His prayer goes on for seven verses – but nothing happened. Then he started to thank God, and the fish could hold him no longer. Take a look at verse 9:

> *But I will sacrifice to You*
> *With the voice of thanksgiving;*
> *I will pay what I have vowed.*
> *Salvation is of the LORD.*

That really was a sacrifice! When you are in the belly of a fish, it takes real determination to start thanking God. But God heard! Verse 10:

> *So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it*
> *vomited Jonah onto dry land.*

When did the Lord speak to the fish? When Jonah began to praise and thank the Lord.

A beautiful example of the same principle appears in Acts 16 in the ministry of Paul and Silas. Paul had cast a demon out of a fortune-telling woman and all of Philippi was thrown into an uproar. Paul and Silas had been badly beaten and shut up in the maximum security jail. It was midnight. A close friend of mine conjectures that at that point Silas could have said to Paul, 'Why did you ever start that deliverance ministry? Everything was going all right till you started casting out demons!'

This is not, however, what happened. From Acts 16:25:

> *But at midnight* [the darkest hour] *Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

They had never had such people in that jail before! Verse 26:

> *Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.*

This was no ordinary earthquake; it was a supernatural earthquake that unfastened the prisoners' chains. And this supernatural earthquake was precipitated by praise. Here again God showed His salvation to those who offered praise.

*

Let me close with three brief questions and answers. First of all, when should we praise God? There can be no doubt: every day, for ever and ever, at all times and continually.

How should we praise God? With the whole heart (Psalm 111:1), with understanding (Psalm 47:7), with lifted hands – joyful mouth and lips (Psalm 63:4-5), lifting the hands – as an evening sacrifice (Psalm 141:2), with the dance (Psalm 149:3), with the timbrel and dance (Psalm 150:4).

Who is to praise God? Psalm 148 gives a list of twenty-nine different kinds of people and orders of creation that are to praise God. If you are still in doubt, Psalm 150 specifies 'everything that has breath'. That leaves out no one. In fact, there is just one class of people who do not praise the Lord – the dead (Psalm 115:17). So if you are not praising the Lord, you have your own diagnosis!

By now you know the remedy: change your way of thinking! Make a firm decision – with your will, not your emotions. Begin to praise the Lord. In due course, your emotions will come into line with your will!

3

Worship

Thanksgiving and praise – our appropriate responses to the goodness and greatness of God – are primarily utterances. We speak them, we sing them, we may even shout them. But few people realise that worship is not primarily an utterance; it is an attitude of the whole being. I personally believe, as I said at the

outset of our study, that worship is the highest activity of which any human being is capable. By worship we acknowledge God's holiness.

Worship involves our whole body – not just our vocal organs. Every word for worship used in the original language of the Bible, so far as I know, either in the Hebrew of the Old Testament or in the Greek of the New, describes a bodily attitude or posture. Thus, certain specific attitudes are characteristic of worship.

First of all, bowing the head. When Moses, following his interview with God at the burning bush, returned to the elders of his people in Egypt with the news that God was going to deliver them, they all bowed their heads in worship. This was their first response – not an utterance, but an attitude.

Often worship involves not just the head but the upper part of the body. And accompanying this may be the stretching out of the hands, psalms upwards. It is interesting that in Hebrew – a language that specialises in concretes – the word for 'thank you' (*todah*) is directly related to the Hebrew word for 'hand'. When we stretch out our hands to God, we are saying 'Thank You'. We also stretch out our hands upwards to receive anything God wants to impart to us.

Kneeling is another distinctive attitude of worship. I appreciate the liturgical churches that have retained the practice of kneeling. (Having been brought up in the Anglican Church, I used to know all the times in the liturgy when it was appropriate to kneel.)

Kneeling, I believe, is an important part of our worship, and some charismatic and Pentecostals are missing out on it. At times when God has brought a particular meeting to a climax and I have suggested that the whole congregation kneel, we

have experienced some of our most powerful visitations of the Holy Spirit. It can be simply a religious formality, of course, that has lost most of its meaning, but do not let that deprive you of the blessing of kneeling before God.

The main word in the Bible connected to worship means to fall prostrate on your face before God. Sometimes I smile when I hear people singing the line from the hymn 'All hail the Power of Jesus' Name' that says, 'Let angels prostrate fall', because most of them would never dream of falling prostrate themselves. It is good enough for angels, but don't ask us dignified human beings to fall on our faces! Yet there are few great men in the Bible who did not end up at some point with their faces to the ground before God. This is perhaps the ultimate act of worship.

When Ruth and I plan to travel on some preaching assignment, we seek to prepare ourselves beforehand. Usually (though not always) we end up prostrate on the floor before God. We are acknowledging, 'God, we are totally dependant on You. We have nothing to give, no strength, no righteousness, no wisdom, unless they come from You.'

I love those words of John Bunyan:

> He that is down need fear no
> fall,
> He that is low, no pride.
> He that is humble ever shall
> Have God to be his guide.

When you have reached the floor, you cannot go any lower. You do not need to fear falling after that. It is a safe position to be flat on your face before God.

Having examined these various attitudes of worship, let us look at Isaiah 6 for an example of the way that worship is conducted in heaven. In this scene, Isaiah has a vision of the Lord in His glory. This has always been a meaningful passage to me because it was the basis for the preacher's message the first time I ever went to a Pentecostal meeting.

I did not know it was a Pentecostal meeting. In fact, I did not know there were such people as Pentecostals. Without going into details, I was a soldier in the British Army, living just as soldiers live in the British Army. Then, in this meeting, I heard the words of Isaiah. Having seen the Lord in His glory, he said, 'Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.'

When I heard those words, unconverted as I was, I said to myself, *No one has ever described you more accurately than that*. From then on, although I really didn't understand what the preacher was talking about, he had my attention.

Let us read the first three verses of Isaiah 6, in which Isaiah is speaking:

> *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim* [or seraphs] . . .

The word *seraph* is directly related to the Hebrew word for 'fire'. Whatever else they are, seraphs are fiery creatures. They are described thus:

> *. . . each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said:*
> *'Holy, holy, holy is the*
> *LORD of hosts,*
> *The whole earth is full of*
> *His glory!'*

I have always believed that those three *holy*s are for the three Persons of the Godhead: holy is the Father, holy is the Son, holy is the Spirit. If you picture the scene for a moment in your imagination, it will give you a wonderful concept of the relationship between worship and praise. Praise is an utterance, and the seraphs were praising the Lord and declaring His holiness.

Isaiah's first observation, however, was not of the seraphs praising. The first thing he noticed was their attitude of worship. Those seraphs each had six wings. With the first pair they covered their face and with the second pair they covered their feet. That is worship – the face and the body covered in reverence before God. And with their two remaining wings each of the seraphs flew.

If you take covering the face and feet as worship, and flying as service, then you find the proportion of four wings for worship, two wings for service. I believe that is a correct proportion. In our ministry to the Lord we should give twice as much time and emphasis to worship as we do to service.

Furthermore, I believe service should proceed out of worship. We should never become involved in God's service without having first related to God in worship. Our service would be much more effective if it always proceeded out of worship.

The progression from worship to service is affirmed by Jesus in Matthew 4:10, after Satan had tempted Jesus to fall down and worship him. Jesus answered with a quotation from Deuteronomy 6:13.

> *'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve."'*

Notice the order again – first worship, then service.

On the other hand, worship should always be followed by service.

There was a time when very little worship took place in most churches. The Sunday morning service was called a worship service, but in fact, although there were both praise and proclamation, there was no direct worship. In the last two decades or so, worship has begun to come back into the

Church. Some congregations have even made a speciality, as it were, of worship — proud of how good their worship is.

But if we make worship a form of spiritual self-indulgence without translating it into service, it is hypocrisy. If we enjoy a wonderful Sunday morning worship service and then go home and live for ourselves the rest of the week, we have not heard the words of Jesus: 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' Service should never be separated from worship, nor worship from service.

Let us look now at the progression in our response to God from thanksgiving and praise into worship. There is a beautiful passage in Psalm 95 that depicts this progression. The first two verses depict loud, jubilant praise – a lot louder than some churches will permit! It says:

> *Oh come, let us sing to the*
> *LORD;*
> *Let us shout joyfully to the*
> *Rock of our salvation.*

Shouting does not mean singing loud. It means shouting!

> *Let us come before His*
> *presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout*
> *joyfully to Him*
> *with psalms.*

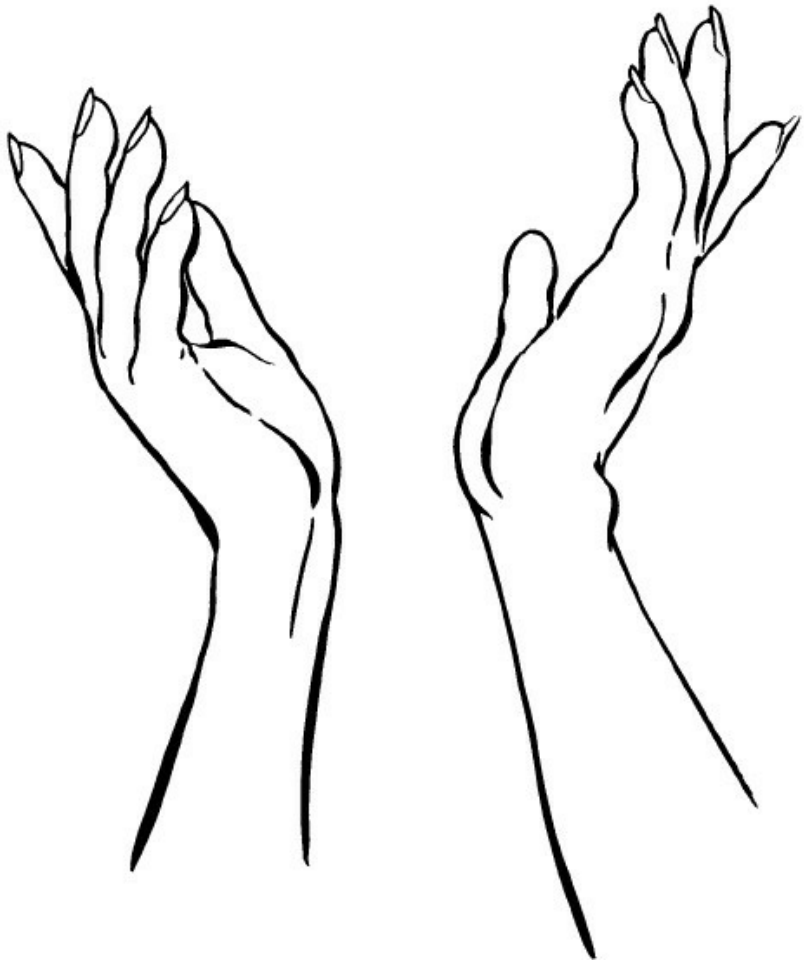
Notice again the two stages of access: thanksgiving and praise. There is no other way into the presence of God.

The Bible is very logical. It does not just ask us to thank and praise God; it tells us why. You remember the three unchanging reasons given in Psalm 100 to thank Him: the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations. Now, in Psalm 95:3-5, we are given additional reasons to praise God. First:

> *For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods.*

The word *great* is used twice, reminding us that by praise we acknowledge God's greatness. This we do by loud, jubilant, excited praise.

Then we see Him as the mighty Creator:



In His hand are the deep
places of the earth;
The heights of the hills are His
also.
The sea is His, for He made it;
And His hands formed the dry
land.

So we come to Him thanking and praising Him for the marvels

of His creation.

But that is only the access. Praise and thanksgiving, as we have already seen, are really the way of approach. You will notice that in verse 6 we come to worship:

> *Oh come, let us worship and*
> *bow down;*
> *Let us kneel before the* LORD
> *our Maker.*

We have passed from utterance to attitude. We began with praise and thanksgiving, but that was not the goal. When Christians stop with praise and thanksgiving, they have missed the goal – worship – which is not an utterance but an attitude.

Why do we worship? Verse 7:

> *For He is our God . . .*

Worship belongs only to God. The act of worship is the supreme way by which we acknowledge that He is our God.

> *And we are the people of His*
> *pasture,*
> *And the sheep of His hand.*

It is appropriate for God's people to worship Him. Worship acknowledges the relationship between us as God's people and God as our Creator and Redeemer.

But verse 7 does not end there. The first part of the next sentence is included at the end, revealing a wonderful secret:

> *Today, if you will hear His*
> *voice:*
> *Do not harden your hearts . . .*

Why is this particular admonition included in the section on worship? Because it is when we worship that we really hear God's voice. When we worship, we have come to the end of talking. When we have done all our shouting and praising, we find ourselves quiet, in a position of reverence before God.

Somebody has said charismatics are afraid of silence. This may be true. The fact is, there comes a time for silence. Who knows how long that silence might be? Are we willing to give God ten minutes? Most churches would consider ten minutes of silence totally out of order. Only God, of course, determines how long our silence before him should be. But in that attitude, for however long, we are open to hear His voice.

Ruth and I take time regularly, almost every day, to praise and worship God. (Ruth is our worship leader since I do not have much of a voice!) And many times when we come into an attitude of worship, with our spirits quiet before God, He

speaks to us. We have had much direction, warning, and encouragement from Him in these times. And even though I am very cautious about prophetic utterances, if one comes in an atmosphere of worship and does not disturb the harmony, I am usually ready to believe God is speaking to us.

But if we never come into that place of worship, we may never give God an opportunity to speak to us.

Notice the progression, then, reflected in Psalm 95: loud, jubilant, excited praise brings us into the presence of God. We praise Him for the reasons we have already seen – and more. But when we have come into His presence, then our response to Him changes. It is no longer the utterance of thanksgiving and praise, but an attitude of reverence and worship in the presence of almighty God, in which we are open to hear His voice.

Jesus has some key words to say about worship in John 4:23, which He addresses to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well:

> *'But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.'*

That is a remarkable statement, isn't it? Almighty God is seeking those who will worship Him. But we have to worship Him according to His terms. Verse 24:

'God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.'

According to the Bible, man consists of three parts – spirit, soul and body. Our souls are very active in praise and thanksgiving. But when it comes to worship, it is our spirits that are in direct communion with God's Spirit. This is something of which our souls are not capable.

It is the Holy Spirit who gives us this direct union with God. Those of us who have had an experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit know that it changes the way we worship. We have moved into a new dimension. Being filled with the Holy Spirit does not make us perfect or superior to other people, but it does release something in us enabling us to appreciate what worship ought to be.

We must also worship God in truth. Truth, I believe, requires sincerity. It is extremely important to be sincere in our worship. To illustrate, I want to take a little picture from Leviticus, the Old Testament book that describes priestly ordinances and sacrifices.

The Lord is giving directions as to what may be offered in a sacrifice and what may not. In Leviticus 2:1-2 He demands that frankincense, a certain aromatic gum from a tree, be offered on every sacrifice:

> *When anyone offers a grain offering to the* LORD*, his offering shall be of fine flour. And he shall pour oil on it, and put frankincense on it. He shall bring it to Aaron's sons, the priests, one of whom shall take from it his handful of fine flour and oil with all the frankincense. And the priest shall burn it as a memorial on the altar, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the* LORD*.*

Sacrifices consisted of various elements, including flour and oil (the latter is a type of the Holy Spirit). Only a portion of these was burned; the rest went to the priest. (Our offerings given to God today also serve the ministers of God – today's priesthood.) But all the frankincense was burned because frankincense, in the Old Testament, is a type of worship, and that is one part of our offering that never goes to anyone but God. How important is it not to offer worship to any human being at any time, but only to the Lord.

Frankincense has no beauty in itself, but when it is burned, it gives forth a beautiful fragrance. That is exactly what our worship becomes to God: a beautiful, aromatic fragrance that rises up in His nostrils.

There is another substance, on the other hand, that must not be included in any offerings to God. From Leviticus 2:11:

> *No grain offering which you bring to the* LORD *shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the* LORD *made by fire.*

Honey in its natural state is sweet and tasty. Burned, it becomes a black, sticky mess. What the Lord is saying, then, is this: 'Don't offer to Me any worship that won't stand the fire. Offer to Me frankincense because the more it's burned, the sweeter it becomes. Do not offer to Me worship that, when tested and tried, becomes a black, sticky mess.'

Think of that. Ask yourself, 'Am I putting honey on my prayers, or am I offering frankincense? Am I telling God things that I won't live out? Or am I praying to Him in spirit and in truth?'

One final, very vivid picture of worship is found in 1 Corinthians 6:16-17. This is a frank passage, just as the Bible is a frank book. Paul says:

> *. . . Do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For 'The two,' God says, 'shall become one flesh.' But he who is joined to the* LORD *is one spirit with Him.*

We need to be equally frank ourselves and see the contrast. Paul's first example is immoral sexual union. But, parallel to this, he speaks about the person joined to the Lord in spirit. There are two kinds of union, in other words – physical and spiritual. Worship is spiritual union – the only way our spirits can unite directly with God. And out of that union comes procreation.

So when you think about worship, remember that this is the way your spirit becomes united with God's Spirit. Out of this union there comes fruitfulness. In the spiritual, just as in the physical, union leads to reproduction.

Take time to ponder this progression that climaxes in union with God: thanksgiving – praise – worship. Be liberal in your thanksgiving and your praise, but always remember that the climax is worship.

Prayers and Proclamations

Derek and Ruth Prince

Introduction to Prayers and Proclamations

God had commissioned Moses to deliver Israel out of their slavery in Egypt, but Moses felt he was not equipped for the task.

'What is that in your hand?' God asked.

'A rod,' Moses replied. He saw no special significance in it.

God proceeded to demonstrate to him the miraculous potential in that seemingly insignificant rod – and Moses actually fled in terror from his own rod! But when God showed him how to use the rod as an instrument of divine authority, it was all he needed to fulfil his task.

With that rod Moses defeated the magicians of Egypt – stripped Pharaoh of his power – humiliated Egypt's gods – and brought Israel out from slavery to freedom.

You, too, have a rod in your hand: your Bible. If you can understand its unlimited potential, you can use your Bible as Moses used his rod: *to extend God's authority into any situation where Satan opposes the people and the purposes of God*.

Over the past three years Ruth and I have been fighting a continuing war against Satan, who has opposed us and our ministry in many different ways. His primary goal has been to kill Ruth. In this war the Holy Spirit has taught us how to take the Bible as our rod and extend God's authority through it into every area where Satan has been opposing us.

The Holy Spirit has led us systematically to Scripture after Scripture, and has shown us how to direct them to each area

where Satan has been opposing us. The strategy which the Holy Spirit has taught us is: PROCLAIM! THANK! PRAISE!

First, PROCLAIM the appropriate Scripture with bold, unwavering confidence. To make this fully effective, we often personalise the passage we quote, making any grammatical changes needed to apply it personally to ourselves. For instance, where the Bible says, 'you', we change it to 'I' or 'we'.

The second step is to accept the Scripture we have proclaimed as true, even before we see its actual outworking in any situation. The natural result of this is to THANK God for it.

This leads logically to the third step: loud, jubilant PRAISE.

In Song of Solomon 6:4, Solomon depicts Christ's Bride, the Church, as 'awesome as an army with banners'. Under these three banners:

PROCLAMATION
PRAISE
THANKSGIVING

we have been able to drive out the hosts of darkness and enter into the freedom which God has appointed for us as His believing people.

The following scriptural proclamations have been tested and tried in our own experience. The passages we have memorised have been taken from the particular version that the Holy Spirit has made 'alive' to us. Unless otherwise indicated, this is the New King James. Where we have felt it appropriate to make significant changes in the wording, this has been indicated by an asterix (*).

The Scriptures are grouped under ten main headings:

Fear of the Lord

Righteousness and Holiness
Health and Strength
Guidance, Protection, Preservation God's Intervention in Human Affairs Testing and Trial
Spiritual Conflict
Perfect Redemption
Mental and Emotional Stability Serving God

Finally, at the end, there are three comprehensive proclamations which are 'special favourites' of ours.

To receive the maximum benefit from these Scriptures, here are three simple steps to follow:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to make 'alive' to you the special Scriptures which are appropriate to your particular situation.
2. Read these Scriptures through many times – out loud, if possible.
3. Gradually proceed from reading aloud to systematic memorisation. This is a natural step. The Hebrew expression for 'to learn by heart' is 'to learn by mouth'. As you read the words aloud, they gradually become imprinted on your memory.

After a while, you will probably find other Scriptures, which the Holy Spirit makes 'alive' for you in a special way. The pages at the end of each section are for those personal prayers and proclamations.

Ruth and I pray that these Scriptures will do as much for you as they have done for us. They have made the difference

between defeat and victory!

Derek Prince

A Word From Ruth Prince

I was forty years old when I came to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord. I thought I was 'too old' to memorise Scripture . . .

As I worked my way through the Bible, Old and New Testament, I came upon Colossians 1:10:

> *that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God . . .*

It excited me because it exactly expressed my heart's desire. So it was the first Scripture I memorised. It is my 'life verse'. You will find it in these pages.

I tell you this to encourage you that you can do the same. When God makes it alive to you in a situation of need, you will be amazed how quickly you learn!

These pages are also the answer to a personal prayer of mine. When I was in the hospital, extremely ill, I found it difficult to bring memorised Scriptures to my mind. In such situations, the mind becomes a battleground.

I needed our proclamations and confessions printed in easy-to-read print for my own use – or for someone else to read aloud.

Finally, I want to encourage you with a Scripture that is precious to me. In 1974, when I was seeking confirmation of my call to Israel, Joshua 1:9 was the verse God used. Now, sixteen years later, I have a better understanding of why He gave me that verse!

> *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest (KJV).*

Be strong and of good courage!

Ruth Prince

Fear of the Lord

The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.

Job 28:28

But as for me, I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

My times are in Your hand.

Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for us who fear You, Which You have prepared for us who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men!

You shall hide us in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man;

You shall keep us secretly in a pavilion From the strife of tongues.

Psalm 31:14-15a, 19-20

Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good?

Keep your tongue from evil,

And your lips from speaking guile.

Depart from evil, and do good; Seek peace, and pursue it.

Psalm 34:11-14

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who
practice it.
His praise endures forever.

*Psalm 111:10**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.

Proverbs 9:10-11

In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.
The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To avoid the snares of death.

Proverbs 14:26-27

The fear of the LORD leads to life, And he who has it will

abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.

Proverbs 19:23

By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honour and life.

Proverbs 22:4

Righteousness and Holiness

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

But we have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels in festal array, to the church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

*Hebrews 12:1-2, 22-24**

And this we pray, that our love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,that we may approve the things that are excellent, that we may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:9-11

Who can understand his errors?
Cleanse me from secret faults.

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
And I shall be innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19:12-14

This our prayer:
that we may be filled with the knowledge
of His will in all wisdom and spiritual
understanding; that we may have a walk worthy of the LORD,
fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every
good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
strengthened with all might, according to His
glorious power, for all patience and
longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us
to be partakers of the inheritance of the
saints in the light.
He has delivered us from the domain of darkness
and translated us into the kingdom of the
Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of sins.

*Colossians 1:9b-14**

My son, if you receive my words,
And treasure my commands within you,

So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding;

Yes, if you cry out for discernment,

And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver,

And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:1-5

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify us completely; and may our whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He who calls us is faithful, who also will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3

Thus says the High and Lofty One
Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place,
With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble,
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."
This is the one I esteem:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

Isaiah 57:15; Isaiah 66:2b, NIV

As the elect of God, holy and beloved, we put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of
mind, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and

forgiving one
another, if anyone has a complaint against
another; even as Christ forgave us, so we
also must do.

But above all these things we put on love, which is
the bond of perfection.

We let the peace of God rule in our hearts, to which
also we were called in one body, and we are
thankful.

We let the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all
wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another
in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord.

And whatever we do in word or deed, we do all in
the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to
God the Father through Him.

*Colossians 3:12-17**

The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared
to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly
lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the
present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious
appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus
Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem
us from every lawless deed and purify for
Himself His own special people, zealous for
good works.

Titus 2:11-14

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:7-11, 16

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:3-12

Finally, there is laid up for me
the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous Judge,
will give to me on that Day,
and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

Health and Strength

Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary.
There is no searching of His understanding.
He gives power to the weak,
And to those who have no might He increases strength.
Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31

God's strength is made perfect in my weakness, so when I am weak, then I am strong.

Based on 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.
They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, 'The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no
unrighteousness in him.'

*Psalm 92:12-15, NIV**

But I will hope continually,
And will praise You yet more and more.
My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limits.
I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.
O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.
Now also, even if I become old and greyheaded,
O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.

*Psalm 71:14-18**

My son, let them not depart from your eyes – Keep sound wisdom and discretion; So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck.
Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble.
When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.
Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.

Proverbs 3:21-26

I can do all things through the One who empowers me within.

Philippians 4:13

The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.

Psalm 29:11

O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places.
The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people.
Blessed be God!

Psalm 68:35

My son, attend to my words;
incline thine ear unto my sayings.
Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

Proverbs 4:20-23, KJV

Now the Lord is the Spirit;
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is
liberty.
But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image

from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Guidance,
Protection, Preservation

The LORD shall preserve me from all evil; He shall preserve my soul.
The LORD shall preserve my going out and my coming in
From this time forth, and even for evermore.

There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen: The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it. . . .
Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.

Psalm 121:7-8 Job 28:7-8, 21, KJV*

The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?
When the wicked came against me
To eat up my flesh,
My enemies and foes,
They stumbled and fell.
Though an army may encamp against me,
My heart shall not fear;
Though war may rise against me,
In this I will be confident.
One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life,

To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

For in the time of trouble

He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me;

He shall set me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me;

Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle;

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

Psalm 27:1-6

See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.

Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since My Name is in him.

If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you.

My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites,
Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out.

Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces.

Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water.

I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.

I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter.

I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run.

Exodus 23:20-27, NIV

Unless the LORD builds the house, They labour in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

Psalm 127:1

We trust in the LORD with all our heart, And do not lean on our own understanding; In all our ways we acknowledge Him, And He directs our paths.

We are not wise in our own eyes; We fear the LORD and depart from evil.

It will be health to our inward parts, And strength to our bones.

*Proverbs 3:5-8**

I shall not die, but live,
And declare the works of the LORD.

Psalm 118:17

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:8-9

The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.

Nahum 1:7

Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O LORD, And teach out of Your law,

That you may give him relief from the days of adversity, Until the pit is dug for the wicked.

Psalm 94:12-13

Fear not, for I am with you;
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you,
Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.

*Isaiah 41:10**

I know the plans I have for you, Plans of peace and not of evil,
Plans of prosperity and not of calamity, To give you a future and a hope.

*Jeremiah 29:11, NIV**

You pushed me violently, that I might fall, But the LORD helped me.
The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.
The voice of rejoicing and salvation Is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
The right hand of the LORD is exalted; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
I shall not die, but live,
And declare the works of the LORD.
The LORD has chastened me severely, But He has not given me over to death.

Psalm 118:13-18

As for God, His way is perfect;
The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

Psalm 18:30

Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning;

Great is Your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion,"says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.

It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.

Lamentations 3:22-26

The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.

To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

2 Timothy 4:18

Let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy,

because you protect and defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.

For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favour You will surround him as with
a shield.

*Psalm 5:11-12**

God's Intervention in Human Affairs

Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.

And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise

And knowledge to those who have understanding.

He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. . . .

For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.

All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing;

He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth.

No one can restrain His hand

Or say to Him, 'What have you done?'

Daniel 2:20-22, 4:34b-35

For by grace we have been saved through faith, and that not of ourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,

which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Show Your marvellous lovingkindness by Your right hand,
O You who save those who trust in You From those who rise up against them.
Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings, From the wicked who oppress me, from my deadly enemies who surround me.

Psalm 17:7-9

LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless
against the mighty. Help us, O LORD our God,
for we rely on you, and in your name we have
come against this vast army. O LORD,
you are our God; do not let man prevail against you.

2 Chronicles 14:11, NIV

O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven?
You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations.
Power and might are in your hand, and no-one
can withstand you.

2 Chronicles 20:6, NIV

We remember the prisoners as if chained with them,
and those who are mistreated, since we ourselves are in the body also.

*Hebrews 13:3**

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true,
He who has the key of David,
He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens:
I know your works.
See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;
for you have a little strength, have kept My word,
and have not denied My name.'

Revelation 3:7-8

Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion.
Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withers before it grows up.

Psalm 129:5-6, KJV

Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues . . .

Psalm 55:9

The sceptre of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous . . .

Psalm 125:3, NIV

Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice.
Seek righteousness, seek humility.
It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger.

Zephaniah 2:3

For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake,

Because it has pleased the LORD to make Israel His people.

*1 Samuel 12:22**

Let all the earth fear the LORD, Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;

He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.

The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

Psalm 33:8-12

"If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,"

Let Israel now say –

"If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, When men rose up against us,

Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us; Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have swept over our soul; Then the swollen waters would have swept over
our soul."

Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the

fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124

Testing and Trial

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, we are steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:57-58

Therefore we submit to God.
We resist the devil and he will flee from us.

James 4:7

Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.
This is a faithful saying:
For if we died with Him,
We shall also live with Him.
If we endure,
We shall also reign with Him.
If we deny Him,
He also will deny us.
If we are faithless,
He remains faithful;
He cannot deny Himself.

2 Timothy 2:10-13

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for us,
who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
In this we greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, we have been distressed by various trials, that the genuineness of our faith, being much more
precious than gold that perishes, though it is
tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour
and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
whom having not seen we love.
Though now we do not see Him, yet
believing, we rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
receiving the end of our faith – the salvation
of our souls.

1 Peter 1:3-9

If God is for us, who can be against us?
He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.
Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
As it is written:
"For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."
Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31b-39

We count it all joy when we fall into various trials, knowing

that the testing of our faith produces
endurance.

But we let endurance have its perfect work, that we may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

*James 1:2-4**

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad.

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.

I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:1-4

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.

For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Spiritual Conflict

God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.

Therefore we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt us in due time, having cast all our care upon Him, for He cares for us.

We are sober, we are vigilant; because our adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

We resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by our brotherhood in the world.

But the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after we have suffered a while, will perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle us.

To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

*1 Peter 5:5b-11**

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty

through God to the pulling down of strongholds;
casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, KJV

We overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony, and we do not love our lives to the death.

*Revelation 12:11**

The bolts of our gates will be iron and bronze, and our strength will equal our days.
There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides on the heavens to help us and on the clouds in his majesty.
The eternal God is our refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
He will drive out our enemy before us, saying, 'Destroy him!'

Deuteronomy 33:25-27, NIV

No weapon that is formed against us shall prosper; and every tongue which rises against us in judgement we do condemn. This is our
heritage as servants of the LORD, and our righteousness is from You, O LORD of hosts.

*Isaiah 54:17, KJV**

Plead my cause, O LORD, with those who strive against me;
Fight against those who fight against me.
Take hold of shield and buckler, And stand up for my help.
Also draw out the spear,
And stop the way against those who pursue me.
Say to my soul,
"I am your salvation."

*Psalm 35:1-3**

Perfect Redemption

Now unto him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the
presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.

Jude 24-25, KJV

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:1-5, KJV

This is our prayer:

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to us a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

the eyes of our understanding being enlightened; that we

may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His
power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand
in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

*Ephesians 1:17-23**

We are confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in us will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

*Philippians 1:6**

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. . . .

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

For by one sacrifice He has perfected forever us who are

being sanctified.

*Hebrews 10:14**

Through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross,
I have passed out from under the curse and
entered into the blessing of Abraham,
whom God blessed in all things.

Based on Galatians 3:13-14
Genesis 24:1

Behold what manner of love the Father has
bestowed on us, that we should be called
children of God! And we are.

Therefore the world does not know us, because
it did not know Him.

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be,

but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself,

just as He is pure.

*1 John 3:1-3**

We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:16

But we are washed, but we are sanctified, but we are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

*1 Corinthians 6:11**

Now may the God of peace who brought up our
Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting
covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Mental and Emotional Stability

We have laboured and been heavy laden, but we come to You, Lord Jesus, that You may give us rest.

We take Your yoke upon us and learn from You, for You are meek and lowly in heart, and we shall find rest for our souls.

For Your yoke is easy and Your burden is light.

*Matthew 11:28-30**

There remains therefore a Sabbath-rest for the people of God.

For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest,
lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience.

*Hebrews 4:9-11**

You will keep me in perfect peace because my mind is stayed on You and I trust in You.

*Isaiah 26:3**

I have great peace because I love your law and nothing shall offend me.

*Psalm 119:165, KJV**

The weapons of my warfare are mighty in God.
With them I pull down strongholds that Satan has built in my mind.
I bring all my thoughts into obedience to Christ.
Three of my mightiest weapons are proclamation, thanksgiving and praise.

Based on 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

*2 Timothy 1:7**

Now may the God of hope fill us with all joy
and peace in believing, that we may abound
in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Romans 15:13**

We are anxious for nothing, but in everything

by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving,
we let our requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren,

whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, we meditate on these things.

*Philippians 4:6-8**

Serving God

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?

Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

2 Corinthians 2:14-17, NIV

God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

*Ephesians 3:20**

God is able to make all grace abound toward us;

that we, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8, KJV

Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

Matthew 18:19

The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Therefore we pray the Lord of the harvest, that he will thrust forth labourers into his harvest.

*Matthew 9:37-38, KJV**

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

*Matthew 24:14**

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there,
But water the earth,
And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater,
So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11

We will be strong and of good courage, and do it; we will not fear nor be dismayed, for the
LORD God – our God – will be with us.

He will not leave us nor forsake us, until we have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

*1 Chronicles 28:20**

We work out our own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

We do all things without grumbling and arguing, that we may become blameless and innocent, children of God without fault in the midst of a
crooked and perverse generation, among whom
we shine as lights in the world, holding forth the Word of life.

*Philippians 2:12b-16a**

Let us watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

Let all that we do be done with love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

What things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

But indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:7-14

But you, O man of God, flee these things and
pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love,
patience, gentleness.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all
things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed
the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's
appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality,

dwelling in unapproachable light,
whom no man has seen or can see,
to whom be honour and everlasting power.
Amen.

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Since then we were raised with Christ, we seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

We set our minds on things above,
not on things on the earth.
For we died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God.
When Christ who is our life appears, then we also will appear with Him in glory.

*Colossians 3:1-4**

I have been crucified with Christ;
it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me
and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

"Now the just shall live by faith;
But if anyone draws back,
My soul has no pleasure in him."
But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the
soul.

Hebrews 10:38-39

THE EXCHANGE MADE AT THE CROSS

Jesus was *punished* that we might be *forgiven*.[1]

Jesus was *wounded* that we might be *healed*.[2]

Jesus was made *sin with our sinfulness* that we might be made *righteous with His righteousness*.[3]

Jesus died our *death* that we might receive His *life*.[4]

Jesus was made a *curse* that we might enter into the *blessing*.[5]

Jesus endured our *poverty* that we might share His *abundance*.[6]

Jesus bore our *shame* that we might share His *glory*.[7]

Jesus endured our *rejection* that we might have His *acceptance* with the Father.[8]

Jesus was *cut off* by death that we might be *joined* to God eternally.[9]

Our *old man* was put to death in Him that the *new man* might come to life in us.[10]

1. Isaiah 53:4-5

2. Isaiah 53:4-5

3. Isaiah 53:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21
4. Hebrews 2:9

5. Galatians 3:13-14

6. 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:8
7. Matthew 27:35-36; Hebrews 12:2; 2:9
8. Matthew 27:46-51; Ephesians 1:5-6
9. Isaiah 53:8; 1 Corinthians 6:17
10. Romans 6:6; Colossians 3:9-10

THE EXCHANGE MADE AT THE CROSS

My body is a temple for the Holy Spirit,[2] redeemed,[3] cleansed,[4] and sanctified by the Blood of Jesus.[5]

My members, the parts of my body, are instruments of righteousness,[6] yielding to God for His service and for His glory.

The devil has no place in me, no power over me, no unsettled claims against me. All has been settled by the Blood of Jesus.[7]

I overcome Satan by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of my testimony, and I do not love my life to the death.[8]

My body is for the Lord and the Lord is for my body.[9]

1. Psalm 107:2
2. 1 Corinthians 6:19
3. Ephesians 1:7
4. 1 John 1:7
5. Hebrews 13:12

6. Romans 6:13

7. Romans 3:23-25; 8:33-34
8. Revelation 12:11

9. 1 Corinthians 6:13

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD[1]

We overcome Satan when we testify personally to what the Word of God says the Blood of Jesus does for us.[1]

Through the blood of Jesus, I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil.[2]

Through the blood of Jesus, all my sins are forgiven.[3]

Through the blood of Jesus, I am continually being cleansed from all sin.[4]

Through the blood of Jesus, I am justified, made righteous, just-as-if-I'd never sinned.[5]

Through the blood of Jesus, I am sanctified, made holy, set apart to God.[6]

Through the blood of Jesus, I have boldness to enter into the presence of God.[7]

The blood of Jesus cries out continually to God in heaven on my behalf.[8]

Through the blood of Jesus, I am justified, made righteous, just-as-if-I'd never sinned.[5]

Through the blood of Jesus, I am sanctified, made holy, set apart to God.[6]

Through the blood of Jesus, I have boldness to enter into the presence of God.[7]

The blood of Jesus cries out continually to God in heaven on my behalf.[8]

1. Revelation 12:11
2. Ephesians 1:7
3. 1 John 1:9
4. 1 John 1:7
5. Romans 5:9
6. Hebrews 13:12
7. Hebrews 10:19

8. Hebrews 12:24

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About the Author

Derek Prince (1915–2003) was born in India of British parents. Educated as a scholar of Greek and Latin at Eton College and Cambridge University, England, he held a Fellowship in Ancient and Modern Philosophy at King's College. He also studied several modern languages, including Hebrew and Aramaic, at Cambridge University and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

While serving with the British army in World War II, he began to study the Bible and experienced a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. Out of this encounter he formed two conclusions: first, that Jesus Christ is alive; second, that the Bible is a true, relevant, up-to-date book. These conclusions altered the whole course of his life, which he then devoted to studying and teaching the Bible.

Derek's main gift of explaining the Bible and its teaching in a clear and simple way has helped build a foundation of faith in millions of lives. His non-denominational, non-sectarian approach has made his teaching equally relevant and helpful to people from all racial and religious backgrounds.

He is the author of over 50 books, 600 audio and 100 video teachings, many of which have been translated and published in more than 100 languages. His daily radio broadcast is translated into Arabic, Chinese (Amoy, Cantonese, Mandarin, Shanghainese, Swatow), Croatian, German, Malagasy,

Mongolian, Russian, Samoan, Spanish and Tongan. The radio program continues to touch lives around the world.

Derek Prince Ministries persists in reaching out to believers in over 140 countries with Derek's teachings, fulfilling the mandate to keep on "until Jesus returns." This is effected through the outreaches of more than 45 Derek Prince offices around the world, including primary work in Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. For current information about these and other worldwide locations, visit www.derekprince.com.

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