**Praise**

**Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised . . .**

**in the mountain of his holiness.**

***(Psalm 48:1)***

**This is the day that the Lord has made;**

**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

***(Psalm 118:24)***

**As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth,**

**so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise**

**to spring forth before all nations.**

***(Isaiah 61:11)***

**Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed,**

**turned back, praising God with a loud voice.**

***(St. Luke 17:15)***

**To praise is to affirm, to laud, to extol. It is impossible to praise God without being thankful. There is power in praise and thanksgiving. Any thought along the way that turns our attention to the Source of all good is going to bring good into our experience. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**History records Billy the Kid was highly praised by many as an excellent song-and-dance man. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I cannot praise a fugitive or cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and sees her adversary. *(John Milton)***

**Everyone needs recognition for his accomplishments, but it is possible to carry the need too far. Such people are like the little boy who says to his father: “Let’s play darts. I’ll throw and you say ‘Wonderful!’” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Praise is like champagne; it should be served while it is still bubbling. *(Robins Reader)***

**Nobody wants constructive criticism. It’s all we can do to put up with constructive praise. *(Mignon McLaughlin)***

**Praise can give criticism a lead around the first turn and still win the race. *(Bern Williams, in National Enquirer)***

**Having the critics praise you is like having the hangman say you've got a pretty neck. *(Eli Wallach)***

**Sometimes we deny being worthy of praise, hoping to generate an argument we would be pleased to lose. *(Cullen Hightower)***

**Praise does wonders for our sense of hearing. *(Arnold H. Glasgow)***

**Says a dog trainer: When you want to praise your dog, call him. To punish him, never call, just go to him. That way, he will always come when you call. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Praise is warming and desirable. But it is an earned thing. It has to be deserved, like a hug of a child. *(Phyllis McGinley, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Have you had the experience of praising and thanking a child for helping out at home and having them beam and do it again? Or saying to a co-worker, “Boy, I appreciate your helping me with that project. I couldn't have done it without you,” and seeing that they are willing to help again? *(S. C. U. C. A. Regional Reporter)***

**A seasoned flight attendant says passengers on more and more trips of late break out clapping when their planes land without incident. Comedy relief, it's surmised. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**To find a girl's faults, praise her to her girlfriends. *(Benjamin Franklin)***

**Sigmund Freud once refused to attend a festival in his honor, explaining, "When someone abuses me I can defend myself. Against praise I am defenseless." *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**One thing leads to another when you start praising God. It is practicing the Presence of God. It is living by Grace. Once you have tried it you will not want to live any other way. There will be so much to rejoice about. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**No matter where you are or what is troubling you, the answer is to turn your whole attention to God and begin to praise Him. This will be the light that dispels the darkness, the wisdom that gets things done, the love that overcomes discord. Whether it is Thanksgiving Day or any day, remember “Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God . . . Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.” *(Helen Hopper)***

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**The tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing was taken from a Mendelssohn cantata in praise of the printing press. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A hunger for praise: Has schools’ focus on instilling self-esteem turned young people into narcissists? New research has found that college students have such a compulsive need for boosts to their egos that they’ll choose compliments over their favorite foods, money, or even sex. “I was shocked,” lead researcher Brad Bushman tells The New York Times. “This desire to feel worthy and valuable trumps almost any other pleasant activity you can imagine.” In the study, University of Michigan students were asked to choose from among several pleasurable activities, such as sex, eating their favorite foods, receiving a paycheck, getting a good grade, or being given a nice compliment. Most chose the ego boosts of a compliment or a good grade. The students’ responses indicated they craved praise irrationally, similar to the way addicts “want” their fix. The danger of this compulsion, said researcher Jennifer Crocker, is that it may keep young people from admitting mistakes and accepting criticism. “Admitting you were wrong may be uncomfortable for self-esteem at the moment,” Crocker said, “but ultimately it could lead to better learning, relationships, growth, and even future self-esteem.” *(The Week magazine, February 4, 2011)***

**As I reviewed my son’s papers from school one night last week, I came across one paper with a failing grade. I almost came up out of my chair. I started to yell his name when I suddenly remembered he was in bed asleep. It didn’t matter that this was only his second year of school. At that moment I saw his academic career in ruins. I was angry. But I put the paper aside and turned to the next one. It had some pencil scribblings and at the top of the page was written, “My Dad.” It was a poem about me. His poem included the time I had to leave work to take him to the doctor because he had broken his finger. I had forgotten about that. He talked about how I wrestled with him in the evenings. And he talked about a few other things he likes that I do. That paper with the failing grade was suddenly not nearly as important as it had been just a few minutes earlier. I don’t know if he planted the poem next to the failing grade in order to soften the blow, but it worked. Instead of a severe lecture, I talked to him about the poem as well as the failed assignment. It began to make sense to me that I could include praise along with constructive criticism. I got the idea from a poem I read. *(Paul Budd, in God’s Vitamin “C”)***

**Many people know how to flatter, but few of us know how to praise. *(Ruth Brown)***

**When you lavish praise on people, they flourish; criticize and they shrivel up. *(Richard Branson)***

**One who makes it a rule to be content in every part and accident of life because it comes from God praises God in a much higher manner than one who has some set time for the singing of psalms. *(William Law)***

**Everyone needs recognition for his accomplishments, but few people make the need known quite as clearly as the little boy who said to his father: “Let’s play darts. I’ll throw and you say ‘Wonderful!’” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Modesty is the only sure bait when you angle for praise. *(Philip Stanhope, British statesman)***

**Many people owe their success and happiness to someone who has helped them discover their possibilities – by giving them a reputation to live up to. Praise invariably opens doors. All too often, censure nails doors shut. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**It is possible for persistent praise to make a complete change in one’s health and appearance. One cannot fail to experience improved health, if his thoughts and words are filled with praise, never yielding to condemnation. Pliny, the Roman statesman, wrote that some people carry health in their presence as a result of praise-filled words. *(Catherine Ponder, in The Dynamic Laws of Living)***

**Frances Wilshire tells of an incident in Boston. A woman whose husband was about to leave her for another woman decided to try the power of praise. So she spent the afternoon with her husband – although he was not present in the room with her. She dressed herself carefully and sat down in the chair facing an empty chair. She imagined her husband in the other chair. With a heart full of love, she praised him for all of the wonderful things he had done for her in the past. She remembered all of the goodness that was in him and praised him and praised him. She pictured him sitting in the other chair and praised him over and over. She praised him for the verities of Life within him, for the Truth of God within him; the Wisdom within him; the Beauty and Love within him. Soon she forgot all about the way he had been acting. She saw only the good and rejoiced in the good. That evening when he came home, her husband brought with him a big bouquet of flowers and a box of candy. They had dinner together in harmony and peace. She did not mention any of the problems they had been experiencing. She was mentally praising him, and praising him. After dinner, they sat together in the two chairs just as she had envisioned it during the afternoon, she in her chair, he in his. Finally, he smiled at her and admitted, “I did not buy those flowers and the candy for you. But as I was going down the street I thought, ‘Why should I go somewhere else other than home, because at home there is someone waiting for me who loves me, and I love her.’” Then he added, “It was the most wonderful decision I could ever have made. That’s the truth!” Through the power of praise she had lifted up the Truth of him and called it forth. Love acted like a magnet and drew him to her side. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**Probably a man’s most profitable words are those spent praising his wife. *(Marshalltown, Iowa, Times-Republican, quoted in Des Moines Tribune)***

**Anything scarce is valuable: praise, for example. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Many a man is praised for his reserve and so-called shyness, when he is simply too proud to risk making a fool of himself. *(J. B. Priestley, in All About Ourselves and Other Essays)***

**Praise is like sunlight to the human spirit: we cannot flower and grow without it. *(Jess Lair)***

**We tend to forget that criticism sometimes expresses greater respect than praise. It is surely more of an honor than flattery. As a professor, you challenge a student because you consider her capable of learning. You question her premises because you think she’s game enough to re-examine them. *(Wendy Kaminer, in The Atlantic Monthly)***

**A person may not be as good as you tell him he is, but he'll try harder thereafter*. (Crossword Varieties Magazine)***

**Parents can instill narcissism: Proud parents aren't doing their kids any favors by constantly telling them they are "special" or "exceptional." Such praise may be intended to bolster kids' self-esteem, but new research suggests that frequently telling children they are superior to other kids may instill a toxic personality trait: narcissism. The researchers studied 565 children ranging from 7 to 12 years old, and how their parents interacted with them, finding that moms and dads who heap unearned praise on their children wind up raising self-centered brats. "Children become more narcissistic when they are put on a pedestal -- when they are given the feeling that they are more special, more entitled, and more unique than others," researcher Eddie Brummelman of the University of Amsterdam tells Time.com. Narcissists often demand special treatment, and find any setback intolerable and humiliating. They are more violent than other people, and are at high risk for drug addiction and depression. The best way for parents to boost kids' self-esteem, the study found, is to simply show them a lot of warmth and affection -- to make them feel valued, not superior. *(The Week magazine, March 27, 2015)***

**Once in a century a man may be ruined or made insufferable by praise. But surely once in a minute something generous dies for want of it. *(John Masefield)***

**Walt Whitman also published his own poems and even set his own type. He guaranteed favorable reviews by writing them himself -- in three different newspapers. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 32)***

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