

The Protest/Praise Process

A VFC Victory Visual: # 32
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*Praise - The Weapon that Conquers All **

Let the high praise of God be in their mouths and a double edged sword in their hands.

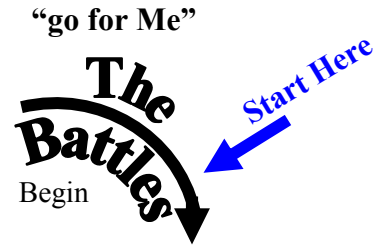
Psalm 149:6—The Thrill of a Powerful Response to Christ and Culture

“When Disciples are sharp in both sacred and secular living they creates a mouth of praise!”



The Overcoming Life

To Joyfully and Wisely Endure the Cycles of Life's Battles and Blessings While Increasingly Becoming More Satisfied with "My Lord," More Significant to "My Others" and More Sufficient to "My Self"

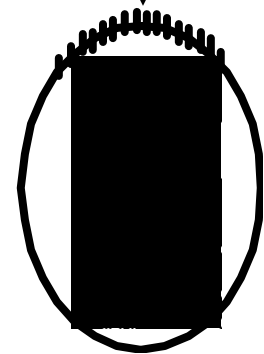


God **Allows**, He permits it all so to show us the "Cross" - Christ Pleas'd the Father with carrying His Cross (Isa. 53)



Conflicted By Life's Irritations

Problems, Pain, Wounds, Pressures, Betrayals, Evils, Losses, Accusations, Disappointments, Blindness, Ignorance, Limitations, Entrapments, Illnesses, Anguish, Regrets, Guilt, Despair, Failures, etc. all allow us to see the cross if our eyes are open to the battle.



So that my life can reflect ...

3. Because the Father will Use it! — Rom. 8:28-29, II Cor. 12:7-10
2. Because the Father can Handle it! — Rom. 11:32-36, Jer. 32:17, 26-27
1. Because the Father has Allowed it! — Rom. 15:1-5, I Pet. 4:12,19



Why can I offer praise for everything?

The Results of **YIELDING** to Christ's Wisdom
Rom.6:8-14

Praise

Which response is your choice?

Creates One Right Response (Eventual Victory)

Ps. 8; 22:22; 103; Heb. 13:15;
I Peter 2:9



You Trust God and Faith Walk

Protest

Creates Five Wrong Responses (Eventual Defeat)

Is. 57:20-21; Eph. 4:29-30, 32

1. Defend Yourself
2. Blame Others
3. Become Bitter
4. Quit or Give Up
5. Prove Your Glory

The Results of **JUDGING** by Your Wisdom

Matt. 7:1-6; I Cor. 4:1-5

Our only two choices ... play god or trust God!



You Play God and Sight Walk

My Greatest Old Testament Verse on Praise—Psalm 149:6

Praise—is the only real proof to yourself, to others and to the Godhead that you truly believe that Savior Jesus is more powerful to you than your problems. Only a life of praise will keep your life in orbit around the purposes and pleasures of the Father! In Christ our Joy grows into Praise which can ultimately turn into High Praise!! Using Christ’s “DOUBLE EDGED SWORD” will cut down the idols of good and bad, success and defeat, comfort or suffering, and free you to live in His higher Presence and Purpose! Only this strategy will radiate the LIGHT of the Christ Life! (Ps. 149:6). Only in this one verse does the term “High Praise” appear in the Hebrew of the Old Testament (see *VFC Resource # 22: Living in High Praise* and *VFC Resource #30: Using Christ’s Double Edged Sword*). The “Double Edged Sword Disciple” is effective for Christ in both the secular and the sacred arenas of life. To be significant for Christ in your secular duties and spiritual desires will “put” High Praise in your mouth. If praise is increasing in your life, you know you are becoming what you were created and re-created to be. Nothing on earth can fill and satisfy our hearts more magnificently than to see the blazing and stunning realities of our Lord’s commanding and exalted supreme significance ... glory! Such a vision can’t help but produce the highest praise possible from human hearts and lips (Isa. 6:1-8).

What Praise Is

Persistent Praise is the only Positive Proof that we Properly Perceive the Powerful Promises of the Prince of Peace (HDM).

Three Progressions

I see joy as our initial and continuous experience of personal satisfaction, delight and well being in Jesus. Paul and our Lord define its capacities (Phil. 4:4 and John 15:11).

I see praise rooted in what we see God doing in the lives of others and the world. It is our experience of confirmation that He is our Sovereign Lord and all things are moving toward conclusions desired by Him. The summary thought is in Psalm 69:34, “Let heaven and earth praise Him...” I encourage my readers to check their concordance and read thorough a few dozen verses on praise if you want to begin to catch the sweep of this fantastic word!

High Praise, again, used only once in Scripture (Ps. 149:6), is the spirit that captures our being and floods our mouth as the highest revelations of Christ Jesus become real to our hearts. We sense His sharpness about discerning the reality of earth’s secular situations and our sacred calling. We become our Lord’s servants at our highest level in comprehending our culture and our Christ in such a way that will lead to the Father’s glory. It is earth’s grandest fulfillment for ourselves and a preview of His coming Kingdom. Note I Chronicles 12:32!

A Mentor’s Definition

My dear friend, Mickey Bonner, now with Christ, defined praise this way: “A man’s maturity in Christ is always revealed by his level of praise during his worst crisis.” Amen! I would add that whatever takes praise out of your mouth ... your optimism about Jesus ... is close to being an idol in your life!

* I am indebted to Bill Gothard and his Institute of Basic Youth Conflicts for the essence of this Victory Visual. God used him to touch my own life deeply. I have taken great liberty in adding my own thoughts and expanding his original, more simple diagram. At least 75% of the above is my contribution.