



WEEKLY STUDY

God Did It!

Pastor Gary brought a message of encouragement for us this week. He reminded us that God has brought us into a life of praise and desires that we live it out in a community of praise. This quote from Howard Thurman sets the tone, "Praise is rooted and connected with our personal and communal encounter with the living God." May your week be filled with moments of praise breaking forth into every situation.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: PSALM 103.1-11 (RSV)

*Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*
² *Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

⁶ *The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.*
⁷ *He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.*
⁸ *The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

- ⁹ *He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.*
- ¹⁰ *He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor requite us according to our iniquities.*
- ¹¹ *For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;*

- David is careful to say that God is in charge here. It's all about God and it always has been. It always will be. This is a put-you-in-your place kind of Psalm, but it also offers enough grace to prepare us for Jesus. God does not deal with us according to our worst moments. Instead, he will fight for us and offer us a Way of salvation. As followers of Jesus, this passage points us towards the gospel of Jesus Christ. **Have you ever been so overwhelmed by God that you couldn't keep quiet about His greatness?**
- *God, my soul blesses your name. You have offered me forgiveness and prepared for me a new home with you in Heaven. I am overwhelmed by your goodness! Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 19.37-40

As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen,³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

- The original text was written without punctuation, but we can understand why exclamation points are in the translation. The words, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord" and "glory in the highest" seem to cry out for an exclamation point! It's humbling to read Jesus' words that while God desires us to give him praise, even if we don't, the rocks will. As a church, we have learned to do this for one another. There are days when we feel so low and beat down that we find it difficult to lift up praise to God. Yet we gather together and let the church's praise remind us of the goodness of God. **Are there people in your life who are willing to praise God alongside you even when you can't?**
- *Jesus, I don't want to remain silent in the face of your humble reign over my life and this world. I will praise you so that it's not left to the stones to cry out! Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: PSALM 34.1-3

*I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

² *My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and be glad.*

³ *O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!*

- Pastor Gary described his friend Renita who, everytime she came up to preach, threw her head back and proclaimed these words from Psalm 34. What a witness! For most of us, standing in front of a group of people to proclaim God's Word can be exhilarating, humbling, and anxiety-producing all at the same time. These words move the act of proclamation from an individual activity to a communal one. "Let us exalt his name together." **How would you put that phrase in contemporary language? Can you imagine a setting where you might feel led to say that?**

- *God, I will bless you at all times. May all of my words and all of my actions today bring you praise. Amen.*

THURSDAY: PSALM 145.1-11 (MSG)

*I lift you high in praise, my God, O my King!
and I'll bless your name into eternity.*

² *I'll bless you every day,
and keep it up from now to eternity.*

³ *God is magnificent; he can never be praised enough.
There are no boundaries to his greatness.*

⁴ *Generation after generation stands in awe of your work;
each one tells stories of your mighty acts.*

⁵ *Your beauty and splendor have everyone talking;
I compose songs on your wonders.*

⁶ *Your marvelous doings are headline news;
I could write a book full of the details of your greatness.*

⁷ *The fame of your goodness spreads across the country;
your righteousness is on everyone's lips.*

⁸ *God is all mercy and grace—
not quick to anger, is rich in love.*

⁹ *God is good to one and all;
everything he does is soaked through with grace.*

¹⁰⁻¹¹ *Creation and creatures applaud you, God;
your holy people bless you.*

- Another modern translation of this Psalm begins, “My heart explodes with praise to you!” Pastor Gary shared with us, “Praise kept under pressure can erupt like a volcano and it will overflow.” Sometimes worship may seem repetitive. We often begin our times of worship at Providence Church with 15 minutes of praise in which we tell God how good he is. Although we don’t know exactly what heaven will be like, there are biblical images of ongoing worship around the throne. We are training for that now. “I will bless your name into eternity”! (vs 1) **Take a moment to write down some of your own words that describe God’s greatness (vs 6).**

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- *God, I need more words and all of eternity to express how much I love you. Amen.*

FRIDAY: GALATIANS 6.14-16

For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate. Can't you see the central issue in all this? It is not what you and I do—submit to circumcision, reject circumcision. It is what God is doing, and he is creating something totally new, a free life! All who walk by this standard are the true Israel of God—his chosen people. Peace and mercy on them!

- Howard Thurman wrote, “the mood of thanksgiving overwhelms us when we remember how good and great is our fortune.” There is nothing for us to boast about except for what God has done through his Son Jesus Christ. It is not about the little things that we make of religion, it’s about what God is doing in us. God is making us free in Jesus! **Is there anything that you are holding onto when it comes to the practice of religion that may be keeping you from focusing on Jesus?**
- *Jesus, you are creating in me something totally new, a free life! May I live out of that gift today and always. Amen.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 103.1-5

*Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
God Did It!*

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⁴ *who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
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⁵ *who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
God Did It!*

- Today we revisit Psalm 103 with Pastor Gary’s “Providence Church’s Remix”. Every good thing that God has done, we must declare. Read through it multiple times and notice the rhythm. For every good thing there is credit and praise given to the One who has done it. **Are there good things that God has done in your life that you have yet to give Him credit for?**
- *God, you did it! You will do it again! Fill my heart and my life with praise for you. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Gary shared this list of reasons from Psalm 103 as to why God ought to be praised. What can you add to this list? How can you offer praise right now as a group for all that God has done?

1. God forgives our sins
2. God heals all diseases
3. God redeems us from the pit
4. God offers steadfast love and mercy
5. God satisfies us with good
6. God vindicates the oppressed and provides justice