

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“THE NECESSITY OF JOYOUS PRAISE”

Discuss

At the end of the 11th chapter of Paul’s letter to the Romans, there is a beautiful doxology—a natural and uncontrollable outburst of praise from the apostle after he ponders the mercy of God.

“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?
Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him? For from
him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the
glory forever! Amen. (Rom. 11:33-36)

We are beginning our six-week study of the necessity of prayer by looking at the necessity of joyous praise. In a [2017 study of prayer](#) in America, people were asked to name the things that they were most likely to include in their prayers. “Gratitude and thanksgiving” and “The needs of my family and community” top the list. Unlike Paul (or the psalmists), Americans apparently rarely include praise in their prayers.

- 1) In both the prayers we are studying this week, God is addressed as “Father.”
 - In what ways might considering the fact that we are permitted to address God as “Father” influence the content of our prayers? See Hebrews 10:19-22 and Rom. 8:15-17.
 - In what ways might considering the fact that he is our “Father in heaven” influence the content of our prayers? See Is. 6:1-5, John 14:6, and Ps. 2:4-12.
 - Should being able to pray to our Father in heaven cause us to spend time praising God? Why is praise so often absent from the prayers of many Christians?
- 2) What do you understand “hallowed be your name” to mean? Consider both the word “hallowed” and the meaning of “name.”
 - Why do you think it is the first petition in the Lord’s Prayer?
 - Is God’s name hallowed now in this world? If so, in what ways? In what way will it be hallowed after the Second Coming of Christ?
- 3) In Luke 10:21, Jesus is described as being “full of joy through the Holy Spirit.”
 - How can we be like Jesus as we pray, including as we praise?
- 4) If you were to assess evangelical Americans as a group, what would you say they most revere and praise? If you are honest, what do you as an individual most revere and praise? Are there things that you would say we revere too much and/or things that we revere too little?

DATE: January 5, 2020

SPEAKER: Brian/Frank

SERIES: Prayer

PASSAGE: Luke 11:1-2b, 10:21

Pray

Praise the LORD! Great are your works, O LORD. Glorious and majestic are your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever. You have caused your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and compassionate.

You provide food for those who fear you; you remember your covenant forever. You have shown your people the power of your works. The works of your hands are faithful and just; all your precepts are trustworthy. They are done in faithfulness and uprightness.

You have provided redemption for your people and ordained your covenant forever—holy and awesome is your name. To you belongs eternal praise. Amen.

- based on Ps. 111

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS
Salvation Army

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS
Friends of the Good Samaritans