

Psalm 81

Read Psalm 81:1-2: This psalm is about taking and communicating God's goodness. It does not seem like a need to an egocentric mind. Somehow I have to get to a thought process that is more about God than me.

There will be good things and problems in our lives at any given moment. We need to remind ourselves and communicate what God is doing in our lives. We need no reminders about what concerns us. I remember as a kindergartener or first grader I was swimming at our neighbors pool next door with my mom. I did not know how to swim yet; but I felt comfortable jumping in. I was in water that was a foot or less over my head. Immediately, I began to jump up off of the bottom; and gasp for air and ask for help. The point is that we should not only ask for help in dire situations. There is something spiritually unhealthy about ignoring the fact that God is doing everything for me.

God tells us to get ahead of our lives with praise and to reflect on our blessings. Don't let things cave in before you reach for your walkie talkie. Otherwise we only have our own performance and failures to reflect on. It is a recipe for depression. If you are a depressed Christian; you need to begin with your thought process. Is is all about you or God?

When we communicate through praise, we are not only talking to God. We are humbling ourselves. We are self-healing by talking to our weak and weary soul. The Bible says that we can minister to ourselves. It is like adding more sugar to our naturally-souring lemonade. We tend to forget the good things. When I begin my prayer time, I try to put a column at the top of my piece of paper, headed: Thank you Good Father. This forces me to remember the long list of good things God just did for me. Just filling in the good things begins to calm me down. I keep a checklist at work that seems to be an endless list of things to do. Sometimes I will shuffle a list on my desk so that I don't see it for a few days. It is amazing when I find one that was written a few days before. It is a long list of things that have already been taken care of...and yet a new needs and worries list appears.

The chief musician in the temple is telling God's people to sing praises to God; and make musical accompaniment. Some people are more demonstrative with praise; while others are more private. Why does God want us to praise him out loud; and speak publicly about his goodness?

One reason is our words are a public testimony or witness to our observations and experiences with God.

*You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.... “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops...32
“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 10 various verses)*

God has chosen man to be the agency to spread the gospel. Angels could do a better job; but God wants to bring us into his grand plan; with benefits to all participants. Evangelizing and discipling others heals us and strengthens us.

14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who [b]preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:14-15)

We are called to share what goodness we have received; so that others may partake in God's blessings. It is like inventory management. We cannot sit on old blessings. We need to move them out to others before they rot.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go [c]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” [d]Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

There is also a self diagnostic aspect of commanding us to evangelize and speak about God's goodness. How much shame and fear of rejection do I have? That is my fleshly-control indicator light. Overcoming that intrepidity is freeing and solidifies our position in the Kingdom. It confirms our own salvation.

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:8-10)

What is the difference or relation between what is in our heart, and what we actually speak? Our words reveal what we really believe. The mouth speaks of what is in the heart. Our words are a lot more important than we think. I can remember that God showed me that even my jesting is noted; and what I say when I am just fooling around matters.

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A good man out of the good treasure [g]of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. 36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” (Matthew 12:34b-37)

God gave Moses mighty power in his spoken words; as he said what God led him to speak. Likewise, our words will be used to judge other men; so we need to pay attention to that power and accountability. There are things that we do not want to believe about ourselves. The phrase “I didn't mean it” is self-deception.

17 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: 18 When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. (Ezekiel 3:17-19)

Read Psalm 3:3-4: The trumpet is used to make public announcements to the children of Israel. The new moon festivals and holy holidays are memorials.

Why are the new month and holy holidays announced? It was like Big Ben chiming. The children used a lunar calendar. There is also an offering required to be made to the LORD. The shofar (ram's horn) seems to be a horn to call on God. The silver trumpet

seems to be a tool to call men to action. As with any religious ritual, there was a danger of observing the New Moon festivals without a true heart to follow God. Later in their history, the Israelites continued to observe the New Moon festivals outwardly, even after their hearts had turned cold toward God. They readily parted with their bulls and lambs and goats, but they would not give up their sins. They relied on the outward observations to cleanse them, even though there was still evil in their hearts. God had severe words for such hypocrisy: “Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them” ([Isaiah 1:13–14](#)). Sin is hateful to God, and no amount of ritual or ceremony or sacrament can make up for a sinful heart. “Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being” ([Psalm 51:6, ESV](#); see also [Hosea 6:6](#)).

Read Psalm 81:5–16: Walking with God is like being a high voltage line worker. There are workers who become part of the circuit, as they attach their cart wheels to the high voltage tower lines. They are perfectly safe as long as they do not touch anything that is grounded. The children of Israel had all of the power imaginable. There are rules of righteousness to follow. We cannot represent God, while acting like everyone else. A high voltage worker cannot connect with anything earthly.

God used the Hebrews to convey his message to all men. He expected them to follow him and his ways; but they became too comfortable. The thing that kills many electricians is becoming too comfortable around power. You cannot have both. You cannot have deep connections to earth; and hold high voltage. It will blow a hole in you. You have to pick one or the other.