

God's Presence

by LaDonna Taylor

Praise and worship creates an atmosphere for God's presence. The definition of *praise* is to recite, rehearse, or demonstrate the acts, works, promises, and character of God. Praise means to express favorable judgment.

A real estate appraiser's job is to give value to property. Real estate appraisers prepare detailed descriptions of properties and estimate values. They verify legal descriptions and measurements and note all special features that bring value. Location is of utmost importance. The simplest structure can be worth millions when located in the right place. Before any real estate transaction can take place, an appraisal must be prepared.

When we praise God, there is a faithful expectation for Him to be who He says He is. Before anything we must praise Him. When we remind God of His value, it moves Him on our behalf. We must verify His legal description and find out who He is in the scripture. When we praise Him, we tell God who He is! Every detail about God gives Him more value. The more you study His Word and magnify His characteristics, the more He is worth to you.

Find God's location. Knowing where He is gives Him great value. He is first and not last; He is above only and not beneath! He is preparing a place for you in heaven (*John 14:2*). He is inside of you (*Romans 8:10-11*) and will never leave or forsake you (*Hebrews 13:5*).

When you find out who God is and praise Him, you will fall in love with Him and begin to worship. To *worship* is to pay homage to, adore, love and become intimate with Him. The late Ruth Ward Heflin used to say, "Praise Him until the worship comes, and worship Him until the glory comes, and then stand in the glory—the manifested presence of God!" Great relationships are built from learning who someone is. It's impossible for you to have a strong relationship with God without understanding who He is. This is not accomplished by an occasional experience in a service. Make a daily commitment to explore the details and characteristics of God. When you make this choice, it becomes easy to praise Him.

In *II Chronicles 20: 1-28*, Judah praised and worshiped God in the midst of the battle. Their circum-

stances had not changed, but their eyes were on Him. They became one with God as they moved closer to Him. The atmosphere was literally changed because the people focused on God and not on their problem! They entered into praise and worship before there was victory. They fell before the Lord with their faces to the ground in worship before their enemies were destroyed. They were standing and praising Him with a loud voice, and their enemies were just over the hill.

Your enemy cannot complete his assignment against you if you will turn your heart towards God and begin to praise and worship Him. Start your praise while things are tough, and watch the Lord go to war for you!

For eight years, Dr. LaDonna Taylor has been traveling internationally teaching the Word of God and ministering as a psalmist with the violin. God has given her a rare gift and distinctive anointing to minister healing and hope to the sick, lost, and broken-hearted. Thousands have been saved, delivered, and healed as the presence of God is manifested through this ministry.

