



House of Peace Outlines

RESTING & PRAISE

JULY 2017

Eagles Christian Family Center



GOD FIRST: WHY DO PEOPLE BECOME EXHAUSTED?

"28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Weekly Announcements:

- Tabernacle: Mondays at 7PM
- Training for daughter churches/coverage: July 6-8
- Firework sales: June 30 to July 4
- Welcome Celebration: Saturday, July 15
- Summer Bible School: July 17-21

Objectives:

- Learn what it means to place God first in every area of your life.
- Discover the rest that putting God first brings and understand that God is preparing us for a miraculous catch.

Illustration: The difference between the truly happy face and the sad face is that the happy face has placed God first. The face that is sad reflects that God is not in first place, instead it shows that priorities have been reversed. Let's look at the following face. When we look at it, it looks happy. When we turn it upside down (meaning when our priorities are reversed), it turns into a sad face:



Turn this photo upside down

Introduction: There are many exhausted people in the families. Others are stressed in school or at work. Others are tired, sick, while taking pills to heal. Some are exhausted because of their marriage, and they're destroying one another. This is why there are individuals who have a happy face, and others who have a sad face. Many have not placed God first. Today we will learn how to rest in the Lord with the intention to recover our happy face.

1. LISTEN TO GOD FIRST (*Luke 5:1-5 NLT*).

- People become exhausted not so much because of the everyday challenges of life, but because of not putting God in first place. Those who have God first reflect a joyful face, and they are more tolerant. However, a person that has their priorities in reverse show a burdened and grumpy face.
- In the Bible, we find the story of Jesus as he was preaching at the edge of the sea of Galilee. The Lord had asked Simon to preach from the boat because there was a lot of people on the beach and a lot of commotion, since it was where the fisherman brought their products to make transactions and sell, because they lived off the profit.
- Why did Jesus Christ want to teach in the boat? Because there were many people speaking loudly. There were people cursing because the majority were fisherman who used that kind of language. We know this because the Word says Peter (Simon at the time) at one moment cursed (Matthew 26:74). Second, Jesus taught from the boat to align his voice with the direction of the wind so his voice would be **heard** and reach more people. During those times, people did not have microphones to make their voices louder. Third, he did it so the multitudes wouldn't crowd in on him and to teach more efficiently.

- d. Did not Simon and his fellow associates hear one another? Of course. But who are you listening to? Are you listening to the bad news and to your friends, or are you listening to God? When we first consult with others or our own feelings, we fail. Decisions based on emotions will betray us and cause us to make mistakes. Before listening to the crowd's voice, listen to the God's voice and you will have success.

2. BELIEVE IN GOD (*Luke 5:4-6 NLT*).

- a. Believe in God before believing the diagnostics or the negative voices. Perhaps when Simon and his group were returning to the sea to fish again, just as Jesus sent them, their fellow associates told them, "Don't listen to that carpenter! He doesn't know anything!" Even so, there was a word that was stronger than the words of his fellow fishermen. What word do you need to listen to so you can believe God?
- b. Some will tell you that you cannot learn another language. But who says you can't? Others will tell you that you cannot graduate. Even so, God wishes to see you prosper in everything, therefore, you can do it. You can be a HOP leader. You will be healed from that sickness, because the Word says that by the stripes of Jesus Christ, you are healed.
- c. God can renew your mind so you can enter the deep waters and let down your nets. Do not allow anyone to tell you that you are a little deer hiding behind the mountains, or a piece of trash that the wind blows. Instead get close to people like Simon Peter, who are listening, obeying, and believing God. Then, you will see that He will do the same with you.
- d. It doesn't matter if you have short skills. What matters is that you put those short skills in the hands of He who has no limits! God will do what He needs to do so He can bless you. If you believe and obey God immediately, He will join the circumstances in your favor just as He joined the fish in Simon Peter's nets.

3. OBEY GOD (*Luke 5:4-5 NLT*)

- a. The disciples obeyed by throwing down the nets and leaving the boats to follow Jesus. By obeying, they brought up such a large quantity that the nets ripped and the boats began to sink. Listen, if you and I obey God instantly, then we will be so blessed that we will have to share the blessing with others.
- b. Imagine what they would have missed if they had said, "We will obey God, but we will do it tomorrow." When God speaks, we must obey immediately. We don't know if the fish would have been in that place where Jesus called them to join to bless Simon. I don't know what God wants to give you or what you might lose if you do not obey now.
- c. You cannot reach great things with microwave prayers, because you will continue being tired. Jesus Christ needs to strengthen you to use you. You don't need a meeting with the pastor, you need to learn and depend on He who gives you life.

Conclusion: If you have not yet accepted the Lord Jesus in your heart, today is a good opportunity to listen to Him, believe Him, and obey Him. There is a miraculous catch for you as well. Come on, make the following prayer:

Practical Application:

- Talk about what you think God is speaking to your lives.

Interactive Questions:

- What word do you need to believe in so that you obey God?
- In what area is God asking you to let down your nets?

SALVATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I recognize I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and I ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and life so you can be my Lord and Personal Savior, amen.

GOD FIRST IN PRAISE

“¹⁵Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name” (Hebrews 13:15 NIV).

Weekly Announcements:

- Tabernacle: Mondays at 7PM
- Welcome Party: Saturday, July 15
- Summer Bible School: July 17-21
- Welcome Party: July 29

Objectives:

- Learn what praise means.
- Discover the requirements of praise.
- Identify the characteristics of praise.

Illustration: In the world, the people praise athletes and celebrities. They cry, scream, and jump at seeing their favorite artists and in that way they are praising them. There are adolescents who praise and worship modern bands such as “One Direction” or people like Jennifer Lopez and Justin Bieber. Even in the seventies, today’s adults praised the “Beatles” and cried when they would see them sing and play their instruments. They saw them as idols. Why do people do this? Because God created us with the desire to praise and worship. We were not meant to praise and worship other people, animals, statues, or strange things. He made us to praise Him voluntarily. Look at the following photos:



Introduction: Have you noticed that mankind is always looking for someone or something to worship? Do you know why? Because God has made man with the desire to worship. People praise dogs, trees, the moon and the stars, or other strange things. But the Lord has made us to praise Him voluntarily. In this day, we will learn how to place God first in our praise.

1. WHAT IS PRAISE? (*Hebrews 13:15 NIV*).

A. It is an expression of faith with which we declare great acts of God. It is an expression of faith accompanied with words, songs, movements, and shouts of joy. The dictionary defines the word praise as celebrating, honoring, glorifying, acclaiming, and boasting. I ask myself who do people come to praise at church? We must place God first in our praise because we were created to direct our praise toward Him.

B. Hebrews 13:15 identifies praise as a sacrifice, a continuous offering that flows from us, the fruit that springs from our lips, a sacrifice of praise. Praise begins with a sacrifice, but turns into continuous fruit that flows from our lips. Praise is boasting and saying, “My Father, God, and I have the best relationship in the world!” Boast!

C. God created man with the desire to worship. Thus, when sin entered the hearts of men, the heart was diverted and it became perverted. It lost the focus of praise. By nature, before sin tainted our human nature, our instinct was to praise God with all our hearts.

2. THE REQUIREMENTS OF PRAISE (*Hebrews 11:6*).

A. Praise require faith. Praise requires faith because you cannot praise who you cannot see. Even so, those who go to the concerts from “One Direction” or “J. Lo” go crazy because they can see them. Yet the Bible teaches us that without faith it is impossible to please God, meaning praise Him, because we can’t see Him.

B. The word “seek” is the Greek word “exeteo” and it means to search, to diligently seek, demand and praise. It is not to look for something like if you’re looking for a piece of paper. It is to search with the expectation to find what you are seeking diligently. Without faith it is impossible to search and find God.

C. When you go to a restaurant, you expect to find a 16-ounce steak with some hot sauce, right? In the same way, you must come to church expecting God to do something because His presence is there. Just as a baby cries for milk you should come also with a burning desire, acclaiming and celebrating your God, knowing that in His presence you will find your blessing.

D. Praise requires a sacrifice. In every sacrifice, there is a death. This talks about killing something with a purpose. For example, in the Old Testament a lamb would be killed. But now we bring our bodies as a living, holy sacrifice that is pleasing before God. What do we have to kill? We must kill our physical exhaustion. Some come to church with little sleep, but we must kill the apathy, indifference, fear, and pride. Only then will we be able to bring a praise of sacrifice before the Heavenly Father.

3. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SACRIFICE IN PRAISE (*2 Samuel 22:24 NIV*).

A. A sacrifice of praise has a cost. We cannot give God the leftovers of our time, money, service, and strength in praise. Not even King David did it. Instead he said he would not give God something that did not cost him anything. He decided to pay the original price for “*the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them*” (*2 Samuel 24:24 NIV*).

B. A sacrifice of praise is pure. You should praise in holiness, not so a guy or girl can see you praise. Instead you should acclaim your Lord because He has been good and because He is worthy of your praise. You need to come without pornography and gossip in your heart; without having stolen from God by not tithing, because that is what stops your praise from reaching no further than the ceiling. Take care of your holiness.

C. A sacrifice of praise is physical. Use your body, your hands, and your feet. The Bible says: “Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name” (Psalm 103:1). Everything that we are. Some only praise God in their minds, but you are not only a mind. You are a spirit who has a soul that lives in a body, so praise with all your being.

D. Do you know why some people don’t receive their miracle? Because they do not come to church with a desire, demanding and hoping for something great from their great God. When you come to church come with passion, believing that He will respond. Boast about how good, just, and wonderful your Heavenly Father is! Don’t get tired!

Conclusion: You were created to be a walking praise, to be a living testimony of the greatness of the Almighty. He is a God of miracles that can change your life. Come and make the following prayer and accept Him in your heart and you will see He is worthy of all the glory and honor.

SALVATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I recognize I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and I ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and Personal Savior, amen.

Interactive Questions

Why is it that something must die in a sacrifice of praise?

What is a sacrifice for you during praise: jumping, being more sensitive, your reputation?

Personal Application:

- *Take the time to sincerely praise God in the HOP with songs of joy.*
- *Pray so that you may live as a holy and pleasing sacrifice before God.*

BIBLICAL WAYS TO PRAISE GOD

“And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment” (2 Samuel 6:14 NLT).

Weekly Announcements:

- Tabernacle: Mondays at 7PM
- Summer Bible School: July 17-21
- Welcome Celebration: July 29th

Objective:

- Learn about the different ways in which we can praise God, while moving our bodies.

Illustration: *“And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment. So, David and all the people of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams’ horns. But as the Ark of the Lord entered the City of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, looked down from her window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she was filled with contempt for him. They brought the Ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the special tent David had prepared for it. And David sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. When he had finished his sacrifices, David blessed the people in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. Then he gave to every Israelite man and woman in the crowd a loaf of bread, a cake of dates, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people returned to their homes. When David returned home to bless his own family, Michal, the daughter of Saul, came out to meet him. She said in disgust, “How distinguished the king of Israel looked today, shamelessly exposing himself to the servant girls like any vulgar person might do!” David retorted to Michal, “I was dancing before the Lord, who chose me above your father and all his family! He appointed me as the leader of Israel, the people of the Lord, so I celebrate before the Lord. Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes! But those servant girls you mentioned will indeed think I am distinguished!” So, Michal, the daughter of Saul, remained childless throughout her entire life” (2 Samuel 6:14-23 NLT).*

Introduction: *The word of God teaches us several different ways in which we can praise Him by moving our bodies. There are some churches that believe dancing, shouting, or spinning in the air is wrong, and that's okay, every church has their own way of praising the Lord, but here at Eagles Christian Family Center we praise with jubilee, just as the Bible tells us. Let's take a look at the different ways to glorify our Father.*

1. SINGING (*Psalms 30:4 NIV*).

- A. Is it okay to sing in the church? Yes or no? Of course it is. You probably used to be a good dancer when you would go out with your boyfriend or girlfriend and sing loudly, maybe because you were drunk, but now learn to get drunk in the Holy Spirit and sing to the Lord with all your might.
- B. *“Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name” (Psalms 30:4 NIV).*

2. SHOUTING (*Isaiah 12:5-6 NLT*).

- A. *“Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you” (Isaiah 12:5-6 NLT).*
- B. There are churches that don't shout or make noise and that's fine. That is their style of praise; and I bless and pray for all Christian churches in the city of Las Vegas, but at Eagles we praise with shouts o jubilee.

3. LAUGHING (*Psalms 126:2 NIV*).

- A. *“Nos We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. And the other nations said, “What amazing things the Lord has done for them” (Psalms 126:2 NTV).*
- B. The Bible allows us to sing with joy. In fact, there's even a song that goes, “ha ha ha, ha ha ha with the laughter of our God”. It is okay to laugh in the joy of our God during worship.

4. **BEING THANKFUL** (*Psalm 100:4 NLT*).
- A. "Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name" (*Psalm 100:4 NLT*).
- B. Maintain a thankful heart (*Psalm 95:6 NLT*).
5. **BOWING OR KNEELING** (*Psalm 95:6 NIV*).
- A. "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (*Psalm 95:6 NIV*).
- B. It's a sign of respect and surrender.
6. **CLAPPING** (*Psalm 47:1-2 NLT*).
- A. "David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals" (*2 Samuel 6:5 NLT*).
- B. Clapping is a way to exalt, recognize and honor.
7. **DANCING** (*2 Samuel 6:5 NLT*).
- A. "David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals" (*2 Samuel 6:5 NLT*).
- B. I had a problem with the word dancing, because I use to associate it with dancing at bars or clubs. I had to go to the Bible to develop a new understanding of this word. If you want to dance in the front during worship come to the altar and do it shamelessly, because you are doing it for God.
8. **REJOICING** (*2 Samuel 6:14 NLT*).
- A. "... David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment." (*2 Samuel 6:14 NLT*).
- B. In Greek, this word originally means "jumping with joy". In Hebrew, it means "spinning in the air under the influence of a violent emotion".
9. **LIFTING YOUR HANDS** (*Psalm 63:4 NLT*).
- A. "I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer" (*Psalm 63:4 NLT*).
10. **SPEAKING AND SINGING IN TONGUES** (*1 Corinthians 14:15 NLT*).
- A. "Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand" (*1 Corinthians 14:15 NLT*).
11. **PLAYING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS** (*Psalm 150:1-6 NIV*).
- A. "... Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord" (*Psalm 150:1-6 NIV*).

Conclusion: Praise the Lord with all your body and you will see just how powerful praise is. If you haven't accepted Jesus Christ in your heart, repeat the following prayer:

Practical Application:

- Practice praise in the HOP using different biblical forms of praising God.

Interactive Questions:

- What are some ways to praise God that you would feel silly doing?
- Why is it important to praise God as a lifestyle?

SALVATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I recognize I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and I ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and Personal Savior, amen.

THE POWER OF PRAISE

“²⁶Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!” (Acts 16:26 NIV).

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| <p><u>Weekly Announcements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tabernacle: Mondays at 7PM</i> • <i>Summer Bible School: July 17-21</i> • <i>Welcome Celebration: July 29th</i> | <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn why does praise release the presence of God. • Discover why praise causes God to act. • Study why praise opens doors and how it brings freedom. |
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Illustration: *“This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And instantly it left her. Her masters’ hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. “The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!” they shouted to the city officials. “They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice.” A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn’t escape. So, the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!” (Acts 16:18-26 NLT).*

Introduction: Today we will learn about a story that involves the characters Peter and Silas. They were beaten, locked in a deep dungeon and chained for preaching the Word and doing what was right. Thus, we will learn about the power that praise unleashes. Let's see:

1. WHY DOES PRAISE UNLEASH THE PRESENCE OF GOD? (*2 Chronicles 5:12-14 NLT*).

A. The word praise in Hebrew is “jalal”, which means to come with shouts and jubilee, not only expressing it with our mouths but expressing it with our corporal posture. It doesn't matter if you are dry, if you're still dry or if you will die dry, but when you are before the presence of God something has to change in you!

B. David was a man according to the heart of God, he wrote many psalms. In Hebrew, the word psalms is interpreted as praise. Basically, we can say that the book of psalms is the book of praises unto God. Do you remember how King David constantly praised God even during times of affliction and wars? Your reality can be tough at this very moment, but it should not stop you from praising God, because when you praise Him, He unleashes His presence and brings about a sudden change to your reality.

C. In **2 Chronicles 5:12-14** *“...they raised their voices and praised the Lord with these words: “He is good! His faithful love endures forever!” At that moment, a thick cloud filled the Temple of the Lord. The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of God” (2 Chronicles 5:12-14 NLT).*

D. When you join in praise and join everyone who is praising in the sanctuary, then God's dense cloud fills the temple of the Lord and something is bound to happen. When the presence of God falls, there are no ranks or positions, there are only children that worship and praise their Heavenly Father in spirit and in truth. The attitude of unity and worship causes God to descend powerfully.

2. WHY DOES PRAISE PROVOKE THE ACT OF GOD (*Acts 16:25-26 NLT*).

A. We don't have to keep doing things in our own strength, because praise causes God to act, instead of us. The Bible says that Peter and Silas were singing hymns to the Lord while they were captive and chained. The word hymns in Greek means "shouts of jubilee and exaltation to God". They were not just singing just to sing, they were singing with jubilee and understanding even while being captive.

B. "...Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. (*Acts 16:26 NLT*). What does "suddenly" mean? This refers to something that happens quickly and unexpectedly, it's a movement or impulse that is unexpected by God. That being said, I want you to understand something. Peter and Silas caused God's movement with their praise, and it shook the foundations of the jail (their reality at the moment).

C. The Bible tells that in the beginning, Peter and Silas were walking through Philippi preaching the word because God had sent them there. But then suddenly, there was a woman who met them, and this woman exasperated them to the point that Peter was annoyed. Thus, suddenly he told the woman "quiet" and he casted out a spirit of divination. The woman was set free, but her masters were angry, because they had been exploiting her to make money. Peter and Silas did no wrong, they were only doing God's will, but they were still thrown into the deepest, darkest, and ugliest dungeon.

D. How many times have you and I been serving at the retreats doing the will of God, but sometimes feel as if we were in jail. You ask God, why is this happening to me and why do I feel as if I'm in chains? Let me tell you this, Peter and Silas were not oblivious to what was happening. They felt the pain of the beatings and they knew they were in jail. They were not focused on the dungeon but instead they were focused on God. Do you know why? Because when you focus on your problems you lose sight of God and the power He has.

3. WHY DOES PRAISE OPEN DOORS AND BRING FREEDOM (*Acts 16:25-26 NLT*).

A. Maybe your kids are in drugs, or maybe your marriage is falling apart, or maybe you are going through a financial crisis, or you could be going through tough times in the deepest dungeon of your life, but today don't focus on your problems, focus on who God is and the doors you are knocking will suddenly open and the chains that kept you captive will fall to the ground.

B. It doesn't matter where you are, right where you are, praise God. The foundations of that place where you are struggling will be shaken, and what you are declaring with your praise will suddenly happen. Even if you are in the dungeon, don't sing like you are in the dungeon, sing the opposite and declare your freedom.

C. When the spirit of the Lord moved over the surface of the earth, He declared order, even though there wasn't any. He declared light even though there was none, He declared fruit and fertility, even though the earth was stagnant and barren. What do I want to tell you with this? That when you praise and declare health, multiplication, and strength, that's exactly what happens. The impossible becomes possible in the supernatural power of praise. Receive your breakthrough! Declare it!

Conclusion: *I don't know how you are today but you can cause a movement of God's glory with your praise, and He will open doors and bring freedom. Take a step forward and accept Jesus Christ in your heart as the king of your life.*

Interactive questions:

What doors are you knocking on? What movements do you need to cause in your life to see the changes and answers you are waiting for?

Practical Application:

- Practice praise in the HOP, but this time declare the opposite of your difficult situations.
- Take time for testimonies to express any victories experienced

SALVATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I recognize I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and I ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and Personal Savior, amen.