



THE POWER OF PRAISE

DECEMBER 10, 2023

BREAKING THROUGH THE DARKNESS

LUKE 1:46-56; 68-79; 2:13-14; 28-32

PRAISE: A DEFINITION

1 PETER 1:3-9

verb: – to express _____
or _____ of;
– the opposite of _____
or _____.

PRAISE IS A DECISION

- ① It changes our _____.
- ② It allows us to see the _____.
- ③ It brings new _____ and _____.
- ④ It points to new _____.
- ⑤ It serves to put the _____ into place.

PRAISE: HOW DO WE START?

Praise has to be _____
before it becomes a _____.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. When has a friend done something wonderful for you? How did you thank him or her? Why do we often forget to thank others?
2. Read Luke 1:46-55. What does the passage show us about what Mary thought God was like? What does the passage show us about how Mary saw herself before God?
3. Read Luke 1:67-79. What do Zechariah's words reveal about his understanding of God's character and plan? How do you celebrate when you realize God has included you in his plan?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9. We should respond to the gifts of verses 3-5 "with an inexpressible and glorious joy" (verses 6-9). But verse 6 explains why we sometimes fail to respond to God's generosity in this way. Why are we sometimes not joyful?
5. Peter used three words in verse 4 to contrast our inheritance with all other goals, desires, or treasures. Think about what you desire or treasure. Which of those things will "perish, spoil, or fade"?
6. Compare verse 7 to James 1:2-4. Give two reasons why God permits Christians to face troubles. In light of these facts, why can we be joyful and offer God praise in adversity (1 Peter 1:6-9)?