

September 26, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Ps. 66:1-2 *Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious.* (NIV)

Now I know I write quite a bit about praising our LORD. Honestly, we should never stop living with a heart full of praise for the One Who has done everything for us. The word praise is used over 370 times in scripture. That's at least once for every day of the year. And, no wonder we are encouraged to praise Him because our tendency is to focus on things that are not really worth praising. There are the bills that are coming due, the dentist's appointment we are dreading, the parent/teacher conference, the in-laws coming to visit, the quarterly performance review. Even mentioning some of these things might bring feelings of anxiety and dread. I can certainly tell you that where you focus your heart and mind is where you will seem to dwell. If you dwell on the things of this world that change so rapidly and never seem to fulfill you, then you will continue to live on shaky ground.

I remember learning a verse at a very early age. Not only did I put it to memory, but it is a daily reminder to me to keep my heart and mind focused upon the things that really matter; the things that have eternal value. This verse was spoken by Jesus as He addressed the people on the side of a hill one day. **Mt. 6:31-33 *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* (NIV)**

We need to set our minds on things that really matter today, and to do that, we begin with praise. The scripture reminds us that the LORD inhabits the praises of His people. If you want His presence today, just begin to praise Him in every circumstance.

Dear LORD, we do praise You and You alone today. You are worthy of all praise. Help us to glory in Your Name today. You are our Rock and our Redeemer. We will shout for joy! In Jesus Name, Amen