



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

October 7, 2018

Let It Go

And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" And David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD—and I will celebrate before the LORD. —2nd Samuel 6:14, 20-21

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly! Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King! Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre! For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. —Psalm 149:1-5

Have you ever been embarrassed by someone else's enthusiasm? Maybe their exuberance was a bit over the top—or maybe Way over the top. Almost everything we do brings an element of self-consciousness, because what people think of us matters. Sometimes, though, it matters a little too much. Some things are over the top good—worth risking a little embarrassment for unrestrained exuberance.

That's the story behind the story of David and his wife, Michal. After years in exile David was on the throne, so he let loose. *With all his might*, David danced and praised, celebrating the LORD who saw him through his trials.

But his wife wouldn't have it. David's enthusiasm for God wasn't to her taste. Impressions mattered more to her than praise. What would people say? David's dance of praise was sure to inspire a titter of gossip.

Take a minute to consider. Take your eyes off yourself and count your blessings. Notice God in your life—the life He gave you. Think of the ways He's protected you. Remember the people He's placed in your life. Marvel at His leading. Self-forgetfulness brings such freedom! And only when we learn to see God in everything do we come to praise Him for everything.

Pull back the curtain of life's events and objects, and peer into the heart of the One who put them there intentionally for your sake. It's hard to have too much enthusiasm for the love of our infinite God. Unrestrained praise flows to us from God's unrestrained love, and then it flows back to Him again.

Take a lesson from the psalmist's lavish hallelujah (Psalm 149:1-5). Unrestrained praise ...

- Releases creativity. *Sing to the LORD a new song.*
- Defines who we are as God's people. [Sing] *His praise in the assembly of the Godly.*
- Gives direction to our emotions. *Let Israel be glad in his maker.*
- Finds joy in God's authority. *Let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.*
- Employs all our resources and faculties. *Praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!*
- Makes us a source of God's delight. *The LORD takes pleasure in his people.*
- Trains us to delight in what He's done for us. *He adorns the humble with salvation.*
- Trains us to embrace God's glory. *Let the godly exult in glory.*
- Brings joy even in our rest. *Let them sing for joy on their beds.*

Unrestrained praise expands our God consciousness and shrinks our self-consciousness *to the praise of His glory.*

Reasons to Praise

The habit of praise teaches us to see the truth in David's words, *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life* (Psalm 23:6a). Praise pierces through the haze of daily life and reveals God's hand at work.

- God's goodness is fundamental to His nature. His mercy flows from His goodness in response to a fallen world.
- God's goodness does not preclude His judgment on unbelievers nor hardships in the lives of believers.
- God's goodness is often seen through His mercies, which sometimes come to believers in very ordinary ways and oftentimes is appreciated only in hindsight.
(from Tony Chute's sermon on September 23)

Prayer for Northpoint

Pray for strength and wisdom for our leaders. Pray for God's power to be at work in their daily efforts.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Scott Williams, Tony Chute, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, and Vinoj Zechariah.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Jacob Williams, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1st Thessalonians 5:18).

Prayer Record

Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"

Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

—Romans 11:33-36