



Empowering People to Change the World

6 Powerful Laws of Praise and Worship

Steve Holt

6 Powerful Laws of Praise and Worship

Revelation 4

John has been condemned to the Isle of Patmos, out in the Aegean Sea.

- Most of his closets friends have died, due to persecution.
- He has been tortured for his faith, boiled in oil and survived.
- Patmos is a desolate volcanic island that was used for prisoners.
- The church all over the world is being severely persecuted.
 - Christians are being fed to lions.
 - The church is meeting in caves.
 - A ruthless dictator, Domitian, rules the Roman Empire.
- John has every reason to be discouraged and depressed.
- Yet in this context we are looking at such difficulties that John see's the eternal...
- But, it is at this point that John discovers the vantage point of praise.
- The book of Revelation is glimpse into two realities:
 - The reality of this earth, the one we tend to think as the true reality, and the reality of heaven.
- What we soon realize is that the True Reality is heaven and heaven is the one determining the reality of earth.

- Jack Taylor writes, “All of us are faced with these two realms of reality. All of our troubles with depression and hopelessness rise at the point of our conviction as to which realm is more real. We deal with the tangible, the visible everyday. We know that is real. Bills must be paid. Sickness and death are a part of life. There are fears, doubts, rejection. But there is another world, another realm of reality which vies for our attention. The spiritual, the heavenly, and the eternal! We tend to think of this as foggy, misty, and unreal. Yet, this is true reality. The invisible is the real.” (*Hallelujah Factor* by Jack Taylor p. 23)
- John see’s Jesus...
 - No lowly Savior, meek, and mild.
 - But an imposing figure with a voice like a hundred waterfalls.
 - With a perfect rainbow surrounding the throne.
- It is from Revelation 4 and 5 that we see what is happening in heaven, we see what God’s Living Room.
- We’ve just walked into the most powerful praise and worship service ever seen.
- No book of the Bible, besides Psalms has more about praise than Revelation.
- In our day and age, with so much to be bummed out about, we must focus when we come to The Road, focused on worship, to see Jesus in His glory and majesty!
- So, what is God’s perspective to praise and worship?

6 Powerful Laws of Praise and Worship (The invitation, focus, purpose, direction, and power)

- When we worship God, we are lining ourselves up with heaven, with what is already happening in heaven.
- We have entered heaven, God’s Living Room...God has designed heaven exactly the way He desires...

Vs. 1

After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

Law 1: The Invitation of Praise and Worship is an Open Door to Everyone.

- God’s invitation to all of us: “Come up here.”
- Praise and worship is not a “song service,” it is a lifestyle of devotion to Jesus Christ.
 - There was no universe before Christ...non-existence.
 - Everything that exists comes from Him, by Him, for Him.
 - All that we have (our gifts, talents, even our breath) is from Him.
 - “All things exist for His pleasure.”
 - It has more to do with the attitude of the heart than the openness of the vocal chords.
 - Praise and worship is a “denial of self” it is giving up our lives into the hands of God.
 - Praise and worship is relinquishing ourselves to Him.
 - It is an affront to us!!
 - The greatest commandments is “to love God with all of our heart and mind and our neighbor as ourselves” This is a lifestyle of worship!
 - Intimacy with Jesus is through a lifestyle of worship and praise to Him.
- God invites us up to heaven, God invites us into a life of praise and worship.

- **Psalms 100 – Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.**
- We are all faced with two realities everyday, when we learn to praise the Lord, we enter into God's reality.
 - Praise is a perspective...which direction will we look: earth or heaven?
 - We enter into God's presence when we learn to praise and thank Him.
- There are two realms of reality and the unseen controls the seen...Praise lifts us into God's reality.
- **2 Corinthians 4:18 - While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**
- The most powerful way we can look at the unseen is through praise and worship.

Vs. 8

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

***“Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!”***

Law 2: The Focus of Praise and Worship is on Who God is!

- We've just walked into the most powerful praise and worship service ever seen.
- This is in contrast to focusing on what God has done.

- We see a picture here of who God is and His attributes and personality.
- We see first and foremost that God is holy.
- We see God as Almighty and righteous.
- We worship the God who was, who is, and who is to come...the God of all creation and history.
- This is why I love the great hymns of the faith and the new choruses...
- Much debate today about praise and worship today.
- Coming to church one Sunday morning, a radio program, from a decided Reformed perspective, was strongly criticizing today's choruses that repeat verses...my children looked at me and said, "But Dad, that's what we do." I said, "Let's look at the Bible." So we went to the book of Psalms, the best chorus book I can find! Guess what? The Psalms, God's great hymn book, constantly repeats itself.
 - Palms 136 "For His mercy endures forever" 25x in 26 verses.
 - So people want to criticize different forms of worship, and I just don't see the need for that.
 - I love the ancient hymns of the faith...they speak of the God "who is" in ways that capture God's essence.
 - But the new choruses are also powerful as they announce in a vernacular we can all relate to, with a cadence or sound that we all appreciate.

Vs. 9

Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him

Law 3: The Direction of Praise and Worship is the Throne of God!

- Imagine no Congress, no Cabinet, no Senate in session in heaven! Jesus is not up for reelection every 4 years!

- One Throne, One person on the throne-always. Whether a Republican or Democrat is President of the U.S. Whatever happens with the UN or EU, Jesus is still on the throne!
- 15x “throne” is used in this chapter...45x in the book of Revelation.
- This is the point! This is the central point of the book of Revelation.
 - The throne represents Who is in control, Who has true sovereignty, Who has ultimate authority.
- This is the control room of the universe.
- The direction of all true worship is God on the throne.
- The direction of all praise and worship is foremost on God and His majesty and sovereignty.
- Healing comes through worship, faith may come from worship...but this is not the direction. The direction is the majesty and centrality of Christ.

Vs. 10

the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

**11“You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created.”**

Law 4: The Purpose of Praise and Worship is to give Glory to God!

- Praise and worship on the weekend is not about our blessing, it is not about getting something from God...it is about giving glory to God.
- Praise and worship is about God receiving a blessing from our lives.

- The absence of praise in someone's life is a misunderstanding of God, an inadequate view of God.
- To know Him is to praise Him.
- God is at home in praise...When we learn to give God praise in our lives, we are inviting His sovereign power and glory into our lives.
- **Psalms 22:3 - But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.**
- We praise what we love...we enthrone what we praise.
- When we praise our children or our spouse, we are honoring them.
- Praise honors God and enthrones Him in our heart.

All of us despair at times: We all go through death, struggles and pain.

Law 5: The Power of Praise and Worship is a God given garment of Joy to ward off heaviness and depression.

- Praise breaks off depression and loneliness; praise breaks off heaviness.
- **Isaiah 61:3 - To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.**
- Even Paul felt despairing...
- **2 Corinthians 1:8 - For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. NKJV**
- Yet he writes just a few lines later...

- **2 Corinthians 1:19-20 - For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us--by me, Silvanus, and Timothy--was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. 20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. NKJV**
- Depression and praise are incompatible roommates.
- If you are struggling with depression, put on the garment on praise! Learn to constantly thank God.
- You have to make a supernatural choice to rejoice or you will naturally drift into despair.
- Despair is the attitude of this earth, it is the work of the enemy.
- Praise is the attitude of heaven, it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Law 6: The Productivity of Praise and Worship. Praise or the Lack of it Permits or Prohibits the Productivity of the earth.

- The Lord created it all, everything. When He is given dominion in our lives, He can have control over every area, he is then free to bring bounty your way.
- On my wife's wedding band is Palms 67.
- **Psalms 67:5-7 - Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.**
- It is the law of the created universe: That the Creator cannot fully bless His creation until they learn to praise Him.
- Do you want to be under God's protection? Power? Guidance? Learn to praise Him.
- A lack of praise allows the sinful germs of this world to creep into our families and our homes...productivity is stifled...fulfillment is limited.

- Praise maximizes our abilities...fulfillment is realized...frustration is neutralized.
- In 2 Chron 20 Jehospat was told to praise the Lord against insurmountable odds.
 - 2 Chronicles 20:19 - Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.
 - And God was free to defeat the enemy! And He did!
- Remember Paul and Silas in a Roman prison, began worshipping and praising God...there was a violent earthquake and the gates opened...and before the night ended the jailer and his family were saved and baptized. (Acts 16)
- Praise release God's weapons against the enemy and brings victory, productivity, and spiritual and emotional health!
- Show me a person or family that has learned how to praise and worship the Lord even during the hard times, and I will show you success, effectiveness, and victory!