

Psalm 150
Praise the Lord

Ps 150 opens and closes with the same word – Hallelujah, which is translated, “praise the Lord.” This is written in command form. We are commanded to praise God. In this psalm, we are commanded to praise God **13 times**...but why? Why would God demand our praise?

There is no one else in the created order that is worthy of such a command given by God.

God does not command us to praise Him because HE needs it but because WE need to praise Him.
It's a good thing to be God-centered.

Seven times a day I will praise you. Psalm 119:164
I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise will continually be on my lips. Psalm 34:1

It's fitting that as a whole book, the Psalms ends with 6 psalms of praise. This last one, Psalm 150, is the strongest call to praise of all of them. No sadness or suffering or sorrow in this psalm. This last psalm is **pure praise**.

The Book of Psalms as a whole has taken you from pain to praise.
This is the last word that the book of Psalms has for you.
God's desire for you is to be a person that praises Him.

When you praise God, you are joining with the resounding praise of God that has already begun and will never end. Your praise of God is never alone. When you praise God, you are not initiating something that has been lacking. God is being praised right now. See Revelation 5.

Ps 150:1 Praise God in his sanctuary, in his mighty heaven. Earth and heaven joined in praise.

Ps 150:2 Praise God for what He has done and for who He is.

Ps 150:3-6 Praise God with a gathering of God's people – musically and enthusiastically.

In other words, praise has its reasons. We don't mindlessly praise God. We have reason to praise God. Doxology is the praise of God. Theology is the knowledge of God. Doxology is built upon theology. Praise is built on knowing God.

Praising God will help you remember just who God is and what God can do. As big and as real and as hard as your challenges are today, God is bigger and more powerful than anything you face. Praising God will help to form you and build your faith so that you are not overwhelmed by the surprises of life. You will take some hits in life. One of the ways you stay the course is to consistently encounter God in moments of praise so that your praise of God informs your view of God and what He can do in your life.

Evaluate: As you read through Psalm 150, is this the kind of praise you offer to God when you gather with His people?