Praise Principles

By Dr. M.G. Hickson

Holy God

Holy Mighty God

Holy Immortal One

Have Mercy On Us
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, Jesus. Therefore, we must surrender to the Lord in thanksgiving, for He has given us a second chance. If you want to benefit from this opportunity, you must glorify God and worship Him in praise and thanksgiving.

God wants you to praise Him! He wants to know that you love Him! Don't you want to know when someone you love loves you? Isn't it important to let your love ones know that you love them? Well, God wants to know that you love Him also! And He wants you to exhibit this love in Praise and Thanksgiving.

Praise Principles, shares with you exciting, loving, and spirit-filled ways to praise the Lord, and provides principles which will lead you to a new and refreshed relationship with the Father. God loves you, and it is time you exhibit your love for Him in Praise which glorifies His name and ultimately blesses you.
Dr. M. G. Hickson is a Christian who was inspired by the Lord to write this book and several others which will follow. She is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, and was raised Catholic by her parents, Mr. & Mrs. George & Mary Ellen Harris, to whom she dedicates this book. She is married to Mr. Alvin Hickson, the person the Lord guided her to and to whom she refers to in this book, *Praise Principles*.

In 1986, Dr. Hickson was exposed to Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas. There she learned the word of God and many concepts that were not apart of her previous religious teachings or beliefs. She was saved, but wavered in her commitment to the Lord, not realizing the power of Jesus Christ in its fullness.

In March of 1993, she received a fresh anointing from the Lord Jesus. The word of God suddenly came alive in her life as she prayed and worshipped the Lord daily in Praise and Thanksgiving. **The Bible even came to life!** The Lord began to speak to her through the Holy Ghost, and thus, she has been charged to share with **You** principles that will allow God to come alive in your life to lead, guide, and bless you!
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Preface

Do not limit God's power! God, through His son Jesus Christ, will direct your path. But, you must ask Him to! "Jesus saith unto Him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) Hence, you must Praise the Lord, Thank Him, Love Him, and ask God for what you need, in the name of Jesus. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." (John 16:23)

Many of you are reluctant to communicate with the Lord in worship and praise because you are "caught up" in religious traditions, or you haven't been to church in so long that now, you don't think you need to! However, You know in your heart that "something is missing! Well, that "something" is JESUS! When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you will find ultimate peace in your heart, a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Praise Principles will teach you how to establish a new and personal relationship with God. You will never be the same, in Jesus’ Name!
Chapter 1

Love the Lord with all thy Heart and Soul
"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice."
(Phillippians 4:4)

Close your eyes and think of someone you really love! Now, close your eyes again and think of how you look forward to having that person around you as a part of your life! Feels good, right! Well, this is how you must feel about Jesus---the Lord, the King of Kings, the Son of God. You must praise God in complete love and worship.

Many of you are probably only accustomed to praising the Lord in private and in quiet, silent moments. Well, that's great, but think about it, when you love someone, don't you just want to shout and let that person know sometimes? Well, why not praise the Lord out loud and tell God how much you love Him and how much you want and need Him in your life? Jesus said, "No man cometh to the Father, but by me." (John 4:6)
You must praise the Lord God, in the name of Jesus. This may seem strange, I know because I felt strange when I started praising God, in the name of Jesus. Coming from a traditional Catholic background, I was taught to pray to Mary, the Mother of Christ, to the Saints in the church, and to the Lord through the Our Father and the rosary. However, when I began to study the Bible, it was clear that God receives and responds to prayer, in the name of Jesus. Now, your prayers may be answered praying to Mary and to the Saints because, God looks at your heart. But, think about it, why go to His mother and to Saints when you can go directly to Him? "If ye had known me, ye should have known him, and have seen him." (John 14:7) "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you." (John: 16:23)

You must praise and worship the Lord God, in the name of Jesus to fully establish a powerful and spiritual relationship with Him. You should pray directly to the Father, in the name of Jesus!
Praise the Lord in the name of Jesus when you are sick, troubled, hurt, sad, happy, or confused. "In everything give thanks..." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ " (1 Thessalonians 5:9) "Rejoice evermore," "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:16, 17)

When you praise the Lord, tell Him your problems, go before Him in the name of Jesus with praise and thanksgiving. Love God, tell Him why you are sad, Praise Him, Thank Him, Worship Him, and in the mist of your prayers, God will begin to comfort you and reveal things to you through the Holy Ghost! You will feel a sense of rejuvenation and bliss. God is so good!

Many of you may feel that you do not know how to praise the Lord; however, it is a very simple process. Just surrender yourself and let your love flow, and the Holy Ghost will do the rest. The following praise principles will help you begin to Praise and Worship the Lord in Power:
Principles in Practice

Say the following words out loud: Jesus I Love You, I need You, and I want You in my life! You are my King of Kings, Lord of Lord, You are my Savior, My Life. Lord God, You are my strength, my source. With you Lord, I am everything! Without you, I am nothing! (Repeat) Now, close your eyes and lift your hands to the Lord and say those words out loud! Louder! Louder! Add your own praise and thanksgiving-- give God the Glory!

You will find that when you continue to go before the Lord in praise and thanksgiving, you will begin to explode in the Spirit! Jesus will become so real to you. In essence, you will be establishing a wonderful spiritual relationship with the Father. God wants you to let Him know that you love Him. " But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipper shall worship the father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23, 24)
Don't you show and tell your love ones that you love them. (If you don't, you should) You should get into the habit of communicating with the Lord daily in the name of Jesus in praise and thanksgiving. **Have a conversation with the Lord. Be sincere, tell Him how you feel--all of this is PRAYER!** Let the Lord know that you need Him and love Him. Lift your hands up to Him in praise and glory! As you continue to praise the Lord daily, you will feel God's presence within you.

For those of you in traditional churches, praising the Lord this way will feel uneasy. Afterall, you are not accustomed to this. But as you grow in the **Real Power** of the Lord Jesus Christ within you, you will be lifting your hands, dancing, and probably praising the Lord in unknown tongues! Glory to God! Now, it is important that you are sincere and that your heart and soul are totally enmeshed in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. (All of the prayer and praise in the world is meaningless if you are FAKING IT!) But Glory to God, when you praise the Lord in truth and love and complete surrender and sincerity, then my brothers and sisters in Christ, you will never be the same, in Jesus name! **Jesus is not a myth, Jesus is REAL!**
Love the Lord with all of your heart and soul and He will bless you. Praise God in spirit. Close your eyes and rejoice in His presence. You will feel God’s presence as you praise and worship Him.

God is Jehovah Jirah, your provider, He is Jehovah Rapha, your healer, He is Jehovah Nissi, your rescuer, and He is the God of peace, Jehovah Shilom. God is there for you. All you have to do is Ask Him, Praise Him, Love Him, and Thank Him.

**Principles in Practice**

Remember the following words as you say them out loud: Thank you Lord Jehovah Jirah for providing for me. Thank you Jehovah Rapha, heal me. I love you Lord. Thank you Lord. Rescue me Lord, Jehovah Nissi. Thank you God of peace, my Jehovah Shilom, give me peace. I praise you, I worship you, and I adore you. Thank you Jesus! Thank you Jesus! Thank you Jesus! (Repeat)

Now, close your eyes and lift your hands in praise as you say these words out loud…. Begin to talk to the Lord like a friend. Tell Him your problems and concerns, Praise Him, Love Him, Thank Him, and ask God to help you, in the name of Jesus.
The Lord loves you and wants to see you happy. He wants the best for you. He loved you so much that he sent His only begotten son to die on the cross so that you might live. Show God your love! Establish a relationship with Him, in the name of JESUS!

Finally, there is no set time to praise the Lord. However, coming out of traditional churches one learns to pray mainly before meals, and before going to bed. But doesn't God deserve more time and praise than twice a day? We are talking about your eternal Father, your creator! We are talking about giving thanks and praise to the King of Kings, Master of the Universe. We are talking your eternity! This is serious business, and this is Real! Surely you should praise and worship God more often!

As you apply *Praise Principles* in your daily prayers, you will experience spiritual bliss, and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ in you as you communicate with God, in the name of Jesus.
Chapter 2

Know the Power of the Holy Ghost

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."
(Acts 1:8)

God, through his son Jesus Christ, left the power of the Holy Ghost with us when Jesus died on the cross. Jesus told His disciples, "But the comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name. He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:26, 27) That peace is the Holy Ghost, which everyone has inside. The Holy Ghost provides that direct line to the Father, in the name of Jesus. The Holy Ghost becomes alive in you when you seek God in the name of Jesus. (The Holy Ghost provides that peace in your heart!) When you praise the Lord and thank Him, your spirit begins to feel God's presence. That power is coming through the Holy Ghost. It is wonderful! It is beautiful! It is clearly God! Are you aware of the ultimate power of the Holy Ghost within you? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
The Bible says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9,10) If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then you are limiting the power of the Holy Ghost. Do not limit God's power and plan for your life. "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3) Therefore, if you are not yet saved, you must first admit that you are a sinner, then repent, and ask Jesus to come into your life. (Repeat these words) I am a sinner and I want the Lord Jesus to come into my life...Now, do you accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior? (Respond out loud!)

(Repeat these words out loud) I confess and believe in my heart that Jesus Christ died and God raised him from the dead...Praise the Lord! YOU ARE SAVED!
IT IS THAT SIMPLE! But remember, it must come from your heart! "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Principles in Practice

Now thank God out loud for saving you! (Say out loud) Thank you God, Thank you God, I love you God and I praise the name of Jesus. Thank you for coming into my heart, I love you Jesus!

At this point you are now ready to receive the ultimate power of the Holy Ghost! "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4)

Once you are saved, you will at some point, if you don't resist it, receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, which is evidenced by speaking in unknown tongues. (It is important that you are open-minded.)

The Bible says "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)
"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." (1 Corinthians 14:2)

As you praise God in the name of Jesus, in tongues and/or in your native language, you are actually unraveling mysteries in your life which the Lord will reveal to you! "...for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8:26)

"God is spirit: and they that worship Him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) Thus, when you pray and praise God in tongues, in the name of Jesus, you are sending up intercessory prayers in the Holy Ghost that are heard by the Lord. As you Praise God and Thank God, in the name of Jesus, He will respond to your prayers. You will receive an interpretation. This is the ultimate power of the Holy Ghost. The Lord will lead you and guide you, and you will experience such peace. But, you must go before the Lord in the name of Jesus in righteousness and with a tender heart.
Go before the Lord in Praise and Thanksgiving. Sing, dance, love the Lord in praise. Begin speaking in unknown tongues. Love the Lord and experience the splendor of Jesus' presence in YOU!

In September 1992, I became very anxious for a sincere committed mate, someone that would be a good husband; loving and faithful. During one of my prayer periods, I asked God for exactly what I wanted in a partner. Then I went before Him in the name of Jesus in serious praise and thanksgiving. After praising the Lord in my native language, I proceeded to pray in tongues. The Lord revealed to me in that prayer period that I would be meeting someone soon and a sign would be that in our initial meeting he would say something about marriage. I was a bit shocked to hear that, but I believe in the Lord, and that was what He said. I continued to pray for this mate and go before the Lord in the name of Jesus. He continued to tell me that I would be meeting someone soon, "You will meet this person soon." I was very specific about what I wanted and I was extremely anxious. I said, "Lord I want a tall man who is kind, fun-loving, likes what I like, who is sweet, and wants to be with me." I praised the Lord with my whole heart and soul. I even cried in my prayers sometimes.
In a later prayer session the Lord revealed that this person would be someone I already know. I said to myself, "who could this be?"

I continued to believe and live in faith and every night I would raise my hands to the Lord and close my eyes and tell God what I wanted and then begin to speak in tongues. (I was so sincere.)

I praised God, thanked Him, and worshipped Him in songs of praise. My relationship and communication with the Lord was so powerful!

On one particular night during my prayer period, I got a bit bold with the Lord because I was getting much, much too anxious. I said, "Lord, you said that I would meet this person soon, who would say something about marriage on our first meeting, who would be someone I already know…. Well God in the name of Jesus, give me a name. I need a name!" I then began to praise God in tongues. An interpretation later revealed to me that the person's name would be Ronald. I was again shocked. I said, "Ronald, Ronald, I don't know a Ronald."
I began to think, “Ronald, oh yes, I dated a Ronald in eighth grade, but I heard that he married years ago and had moved to Maine. Oh well,” I just thanked the Lord and said "Father it's in your hands and fell asleep. " Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not to thy own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5) I later mentioned this revelation to my friend and prayer partner Lois.

It was now October 1992, and I continued to believe and trust in the Lord and go before Him nightly in Praise and Thanksgiving. By this time I did not really think about this Ronald very much because in my "natural" mind I had dismissed the idea because I was sure that the Ronald I already knew was married. Also, I was relieved that I was not anxious to meet someone anymore. You know, the Bible tells us to be anxious for nothing.

Late one evening in October, my cousin Irma called and asked me to walk with her in the United Negro College Fund Walkathon. I really didn't want to, but I did…After the six mile walk, we strolled over to the refreshment tents. All of a sudden I noticed this guy waving at me from a distance. I recognized him, but I could not remember his name.
He approached my cousin and me and tried to remember my name and I tried to remember his. Well, guess what? Yes! His name was Ronald, and I had dated him briefly fifteen years ago. He then asked, "Are you married?" I said, "no." He responded, "Then you are going to marry me!" … I had forgotten all about this Ronald!

Well, we chatted a while, exchanged phone numbers and said goodbye. Now, while all of this was happening, it was not registering that this was God's answer to my earlier prayers in September. I did not realize it until I talked with my friend and prayer partner Lois. She reminded me of what I had told her. We began to praise the Lord. Everything that the Lord told me had come to past.

Well, as it turned out, Ronald was not the one for me afterall. He was everything I asked for but, as I continued to communicate with the Lord, He revealed to me that Ronald was the one he sent to me in my anxiousness; however, He had someone else for me, but I had a choice. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your request to God.” (Philippians 4:6)* I then asked the Lord His choice for me, and He said the other guy that I would meet at a later time. The Lord clearly told me that my mate was in Washington, DC.
I liked Ronald a lot; however, I want what God wants for me, and I feel that God knows what's best for me! So, I packed my bags and moved to DC. Within one year later, I had met and married my Christian mate. The Lord said that this person would lead me closer to Him and would be a Christian as I am. And while Ronald believed in the Lord, we were not evenly yoked. Our spirits were not united. I knew something was missing. "Be ye not unequally yoked." (1 Corinthians 6:14)

When I began writing Praise Principles in 1993, I was not married, but waiting for the manifestations of promises God revealed to me through the Holy Spirit. At this final editing, six years later, I am happy to have this opportunity to share with you that God keeps his promises. My mate was indeed in DC. He is wonderful and we are truly blessed. God knew what was best for me.

God, in the name of Jesus, through the Holy Ghost will lead and guide you, and it is an awesome experience! It is supernatural and it is REAL! However, you must be open-minded, born-again and willing to pray in tongues. You must yield to the Father! God knows what is best for you!
I began speaking in tongues immediately after receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Why? Because I was open to the Lord and open-minded. And yes, it felt strange, but Glory to God when the spirit speaks to you, it is a powerful!

Now, I did not have an interpretation initially, but clearly I was praising the Lord in a new overwhelming capacity. I knew that I was communicating with my God... What peace, what love, what glory!

God loves you, even if you think he doesn't, and He will forgive you; but you must ask Him to! And while you should always ask the Lord specifically for what you want, you must be careful, because you may get just that, and that may not be the best thing for you. I ask the Lord to give me what He wants for my life, and to me that's like having a guarantee. Praise the Lord! Also, it is important to ask the Lord for wisdom, which will give you understanding and discipline in your life. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, that giveth to all men liberally, unbraidedeth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5) Therefore, you must continue to praise and worship the Lord, and ask Him for understanding, wisdom, and to direct your path. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path." (Proverbs 3:6)