

# 31 Ways to Praise: Creating A Vocabulary of Praise

by **Bob Hostetler**

I'm not often at a loss for words. My wife says that, when we first began dating, my use of words to describe her considerable charms was one of the things that most encouraged her budding love for me. Later, as a pastor and preacher, I seldom struggled for something to say, either in or out of the pulpit. And, of course, as a writer, my long-time friendship with words has stood me in good stead (after all, writers are often paid by the word!).

But it's always been different, it seems, in prayer. Though I don't exchange small talk very well, I can usually hold up my end of the conversation without difficulty. . . except when it comes to prayer, and particularly when I undertake to express my praise to God.

I ordinarily try to begin and end my prayer times with praise and adoration. But most of the time, I'm flat out speechless. I want to praise God with all that is within me, but my tongue seems to halt in my mouth, and I can't think of a sensible thing to say.

That was the case, at least, until recently, when I read a book by a friend of mine, Cecil ("Cec") Murphey. Cec's excellent book, [Invading the Privacy of God](#), described his habit of praying according to a list of God's attributes. He described how his prayer life was revolutionized when he settled on the practice of concentrating on God as the Wonderful Counselor one day, the Mighty God the second day, the Everlasting Father the next day, and the Prince of Peace the following day (Isaiah 9:6). Some days, he revealed, he would praise God for being a refuge in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1); other days he would focus on God's faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23).

Cec's concept opened a door to new power in praise for me. I began imitating his practice, applying it specifically to the moments in my prayer life when I want to focus on praising God for who he is. Over the course of a few months, I developed a "program of praise" that has proven wonderfully helpful to me in expressing my praise to my praiseworthy God.

Since I've been using the following list, praise for God has begun to flow freely from my heart and from my lips during my prayer times, as I focus on one attribute of my awesome God and Father each day, and use the Scripture-based sentences as "praise-starters." At the end of each month, I begin praying through the list all over again, sometimes combining traits when the month is shorter than thirty-one days.

Whether you adopt or adapt the following, or compose a praise program of your own, I pray that this suggested "praise program" may help your praise ascend plentifully and purposefully to God in ways that will make the angels blush with envy!

1. **God the Creator** "Creator God, I praise you because you made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you'. . ." (Neh. 9:6).
2. **The Only God** "God, I praise you because you are the LORD, and there is no other; apart from you there is no God. . ." (Isaiah 45:5).
3. **The Almighty God** "O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD," and I praise you . . ." (Psalm 89:8).
4. **The Everlasting Father, the Ancient of Days** "I praise you, Lord, as the Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9), the Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6), who lives forever and ever. . ."
5. **A Loving God** "I praise you because you are a loving God, whose very nature is love. . ." (1 John 4:16).
6. **A God of Justice** "Lord, I praise and magnify you, who is just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. . ." (Romans 3:26).
7. **The Trustworthy God** "Heavenly Father, I give you my praise and adoration, because you are a "faithful God, keeping [your] covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love [you] and keep [your] commands. . ." (Deuteronomy 7:9).
8. **A Merciful God** "You, O Lord, are a gracious and merciful God," (Nehemiah 9:31), and I praise you for your great mercy. . ."
9. **God my Refuge, my Fortress** "I praise you, Lord, for you are my mighty rock, my refuge. . ." (Psalm 62:7).
10. **A Longsuffering, Persevering God** "Father, I praise you because you are patient with [all your children], not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance' (2 Pet. 3:9). Thank you for your patience with me. . ."
11. **The Only Wise God** "I give praise to you, my Father, the only wise God [my] Saviour' (Jude 1:25). May all glory and majesty, dominion and power, be yours both now and ever. . ."
12. **The Holy One** "Holy, holy, holy are you, Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. . ." (Revelation 4:8).
13. **A Personal God** "I praise you, God, because you are a personal God, who gives me the honor of knowing you personally, just like you did to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. . ." (Matthew 8:11).
14. **A Giving God** "Praise and honor be yours, O God, because you are a generous God, who did not even stop short of giving your own Son (John 3:16). . ."
15. **The Provider God** "I praise you today, Lord, as my Jehovah-jireh, who will generously provide all [I] need'. . ." (2 Corinthians 9:7).
16. **The Shepherd God** "I bless your name and praise you as my Jehovah-rohi, who will shepherd me and guide me in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake" (Psalm 23:1-3).
17. **God my Victory** "Praise to you, my God, because you are my Jehovah-nissi, God my victory, who always leads [me] in triumphal procession in Christ'. . ." (2 Corinthians 2:14).

18. **God my Peace** "I praise you with all my heart, Lord, because you are my Jehovah-shalom, the God of peace [who] will soon crush Satan under [my] feet. . ." (Romans 16:20).
19. **The God Who Heals** "Father, I praise you because you are the Lord who heals me. . ." (Exodus 15:26).
20. **The God of All Comfort** "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. . ." (2 Corinthians 1:3).
21. **The God of Miracles** "Lord, I praise you because You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the people'. . ." (Psalm 77:14).
22. **A Forgiving God** "I want to bless you with my praise, Father, because you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love'. . ." (Nehemiah 9:17).
23. **The Burden-Bearer** "Praise be to the LORD, to God [my] Savior, who daily bears [my] burdens'. . ." (Psalm 68:19).
24. **A Faithful God** "I praise you because your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies'. . . Great is your faithfulness'. . ." (Psalm 36:5; Lamentations 3:23).
25. **God the Blessed and Only Ruler, King of kings and Lord of lords** "All honor and praise be to you, my God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords'. . ." (1 Timothy 6:15).
26. **God the Liberator** "I praise you because You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD'. . ." (Psalm 70:5).
27. **The Lifter of My Head** "Father God, I praise you because you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head' when I am weary or depressed. . ." (Psalm 3:3).
28. **A God of Light** "I praise you, Lord, because you are my light and my salvation,' and because you know what lies in darkness, and light dwells with you'. . ." (Psalm 27:1, Daniel 2:22).
29. **A God of Joy** "I give you my praise, O Lord, because you have granted [me] eternal blessings and made me glad with the joy of your presence'. . ." (Psalm 21:6).
30. **The God Who Answers Prayer** "I praise and honor you, Father, because you are a God who loves to answer prayer, and who begins to answer even before I begin to pray" (Isaiah 65:24).
31. **The God of All the Earth** "I praise and adore you, Lord, as the Holy One of Israel. . . [my] Redeemer. . . the God of all the earth'. . ." (Isaiah 54:5).

It may seem simple, but this "praise program" has energized my "praise life," helping me to praise God more knowledgeably and purposefully in prayer. It has also enlarged my vision and awareness of the praiseworthy God I love and serve and, I believe, increased the evidence of his godly character in my life. My prayer is that it may begin to do the same for you as well.

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