

HOLY HELPS

LET'S PRAISE, PLUS!

Praise is currently acclaimed as the formula to cure all our spiritual ills and revive the church of Jesus Christ. I believe that if Christians are spiritually healthy they will be praising joyfully on a daily basis and not only on Sunday. While praise has a very definite and essential place in the life of the church corporately and the believer individually, it cannot, by its very nature, take the place of other specified and commanded spiritual exercises.

Praise is not a substitute for confession of sin. Praise is not accepted by God if it comes from a heart harboring hatred for fellow man. Praise cannot take the place of love for other Christians in the faith family. What kind of praise is it that neglects its duty man-ward? Praise cannot do for us what feeding upon the Word of God can do. Indeed, it is through the precepts of scripture that we learn about God Whom we would worship and about the content of the worship that pleases Him.

Praise cannot take the place of prayer, stewardship, obedience, holy living, witnessing, the fruit of the Spirit and many other evidences of a healthy soul. Jesus quoted from Isaiah, when He confronted spiritual leaders in His day saying, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain." (Matt.15:8)

Let us "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," frequently and fervently, but let us be balanced in our spiritual expressions by practicing praise, plus!

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