

God is yearning to have a love relationship with each of us. He accepts us just as we are. He does not expect us to do anything or say anything special. All that He wants is that we love Him with our whole heart. Praise and worship flow out of a heart that is turned to God. It is possible to praise and worship God in all circumstances – it does not matter how difficult the situation might be.

Praise does not create God's presence, but recognizes it. Praise does not bring God into our presence, but prepares us to come into His presence. When we praise Him with thankful hearts, our relationship with Him grows and we are convinced that all we have is just because of pure mercy. God has created us to worship Him. He has made us for His pleasure and that is why we worship Him. We love God, because He first loved us.

I heard a story about President Lincoln and an elderly woman who made an appointment with him. When the woman came into the office of the president, he stood up, offered her a chair and asked her how he could be of service to her. The woman answered: "Mr. President, I know that you are a very busy person. I am not here to ask anything of you today. I came to give you a tin of biscuits, because I heard that you love these biscuits." A moment of silence followed, with tears flowing down the president's eyes. After a while he lifted his head and started to speak. "Lady, thank you very much for this meaningful present. I am deeply touched by this. Since I have become president, there have been thousands of people coming through this door into my office with numerous requests and demands. You are the first person entering my office that has not asked me for anything. To the contrary, you brought me a present. I want to thank you from the deepest of my heart for this very kind gesture."

We should also start to give God gifts of praise and worship. We should stop asking and pleading and start to thank Him for who He is.

We serve an audience of One. We must strive for a deeper relationship with Him. May we hear His heartbeat, sense His breath and His fragrance and allow Him to purify us to be the person He planned us to be.

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