

SINGING GOD'S PRAISES

THOUGHTS FROM LT-COLONEL JAMIE BRAUND

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever" is one of the most repeated verses in the Bible. In the Old Testament readings, you can get the impression that the Israelites said and sang this phrase very often throughout their lives. If you have a look at Psalm 136 and read it aloud, you will get the idea. Twenty-six times!

"His love endures forever."

This song captures that verse in a unique way. It shares the reasons why we would say this, and the things we see that would cause us to say this; to sing God's praise, to declare He is good, and that His love endures for all our days. Whether it is the beauty of creation, the need for God in the storm, or the joy of a mountaintop experience, the outcome is to sing His praises.

Now, to sing someone's praises is an interesting concept. When we like someone, or like what they have done, or want to encourage them, we sing their praises. "Hey, excellent job!" "You are amazing, keep it up!" "You are so good at that!"

Has anyone ever sung your praises? Do you sing God's praises?

Telling God how great He is and how great His actions are is a dilemma for some people. Someone once asked me, "Why do I have to tell God how good He is? Doesn't He already know?" Or in other words, "Why would I need to sing God's praises?"

I was a bit surprised and didn't have an immediate answer. It caused me to stop and think. My conclusion was that God does not need us to tell Him how good He is. However, I need to tell Him how good He is. Singing God's praise is not for His benefit, although it is God's purpose for us to glorify Him. Singing God's praise is for our benefit! It reminds us and reinforces the truths that He is good, that His love will endure, and that we can rest in Him. I need that!

This song does add another dimension to this idea in the line that says, "No matter what comes my way, I want the world to hear me singing God's praises." Now, this is not only for me, but also for anyone who can hear me. In outdoor services, we used to say it was for anyone within the hearing of our voices. Who needs to hear my praises? I am not really a good singer so I hope this can also be a metaphor in that I am "singing" God's praises (either literally or with my spoken words) and declaring His enduring love in a way that the world hears it. Today, that is a message that those both near and far definitely need. I hope they can hear it!