

Trust God, Live by Faith, --- Praise Him

March 13, 2011

Barry Asmus

God: The Big Story

Light is fast.

Light flies.

One click of the finger and light circles the globe seven times... 186,000 miles per second

Like we said... light is quick.

The sun is 93 million miles from the earth. The warmth you feel now left the surface of the sun just 8 minutes ago. If you took our fastest jet... and flew 24 hours a day, it would take 17 years to reach the sun.

The furthest galaxy from the earth is believed to be 13 billion light years away.

Our own galaxy, the Milky Way is about 135,000 light years across.... so you could travel from one end to the other at 186,000 miles per second in about 100,000 years. The universe is big.

Incomprehensibly big.

Ps 8 How did He know?

Our best response - - - praise.

Man: The Small, but significant story

You and I are tiny. Miniscule. Microscopic.

A momentary and infinitesimal blip in the timeline of the universe.

Sum of our days is like vapor. Fleeting mortals. Frail flesh. Little specs. Nevertheless in our teensy story we can be self-absorbed, self-indulgent, self-assertive, and just plain selfish; i.e. I, I, me, me.

Yet, you and I are loved and prized by the God of all creation.

Created within us is the capacity to know Him, to love Him, to praise Him, and to trust Him.

He chose you before He created the earth. He designed you as a unique original. He has made plans for an intimate relationship with you though out eternity. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever – Why?

Because God is the great I Am and we are the little I am not's.

I am not, but He knows my name.

I am not, but I have been purchased and redeemed.

I am not, but I know the creator of the universe.

I am not, but I know I Am.

Ps 139: Omniscient. Omnipresent and Omnipotent are God's part. Faith, Humility, Trust and Praise is our part.

But without faith we cannot please God.

Heb 11 on Faith

- Praise can strengthen your faith

- Praise brings glory and pleasure to God

The Bible is filled with stories of faith - - of trust - - God looks for it and gives it. When we praise God we fix our focus on God. We trust Him. He gives us more faith. He turns defeats into victory and increases our confidence in Him.

Praise is a quick route to an assured faith, a faith that rests in God and counts on Him to work. Praise helps us fix our faith on our merciful, all powerful God. Dozens of examples in the Bible indicate that praise increased their faith and released the transforming power of Christ. Praise can produce within us a restful, inner peace. Praise lifts our spirits; helps us to center on God, to know Him better, to love Him with all our being, to do His will, to glorify Him, and to please Him.

Main point: God created us to be praisers and worshipers. As A.W. Tozer wrote, "We're here to be worshipers first and workers only second. The work done by a worshiper will have eternity in it."

- Prov. 3;5,6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
- Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous
- 11: 5,6 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death – was commended as having pleased God – for without faith it is impossible to please God.
- 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God of events not yet seen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household.
- 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go to a place not knowing where he was going. By faith he was called to live in a foreign land.
- 11:11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.
- 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac - - he considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead.
- 11:20 By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.
- 11:21 By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph
- 11:20, 21 By faith Joseph made mention of the exodus of the Israelites (Gen 50:20 – As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good - - thus he comforted his brothers and spoke kindly to them.
- 11:23-29 By faith Moses refused to be called the son of the pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king ---. By faith he kept the Passover - - - By faith the people crossed the Red Sea.
- 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down (Joshua).
- 11:31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.
- 11:32-34 Gideon, Barack, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel, by faith, conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, and escaped the edge of the sword.
- 11:36 Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword - - - v. 39 and all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised.

Praise Songs

Everybody sing praise to the Lord. To God be the glory. How great thou art. Bless the Lord, oh my soul. Holy holy holy. Great is thy faithfulness. Thou art worthy. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.