**ARISE & SHINE #4**

**Introduction:**

The Duke of Wellington, the British military leader who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo, proved to be an extremely difficult officer under whom to serve. Brilliant and demanding, he rarely gave compliments to his soldiers. No doubt due to mellowing in his old age, he gave the following reply when asked if he would do anything differently, given another chance at life: “I’d give more praise.”

While that’s a good life lesson in terms of person to person, it’s infinitely more important in our relationship with God. So rather than looking back at the end of your life, wishing you had praised more, start now.

* King David was passionate about worship which included prayer, singing prophets, praise with song and instruments.
  + He organised worship 24/7 (1 Chronicles 25)

Psalm 92:1-5 *It is good to praise the Lord  and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. For you make me glad by your deeds, Lord;  I sing for joy at what your hands have done. How great are your works, Lord, how profound your thoughts!*

1. **Praise is Expressive**

* “Praise” comes from the Hebrew word “*hallel*”, which means:
  + To be clear; to praise; to shine; to boast; to rave, sing, celebrate, to be clamoruosly foolish.
* Other expressions include:
  + *Yaddah*: To lift the hands in worship (Psalm 63:4; 107:15; 67:3)
  + *Towdah*: To lift hands in adoration or acceptance
    - Thanking God for things not yet received
    - OT: Presenting thank offering with extended hands
    - Psalm 50:14; 50:23; 56:12
  + *Shaback*: To shout (Psalm 47:1)
  + *Barak:* To kneel down: (Psalm 95:6) AND to stand and bless (Nehemiah 9:5)
    - You have legal right to be there (position in Christ)
    - Symbolises our preparation for battle
    - Shows readiness to serve

1. **Praise Facilitates Access to God**

* The shed blood of Jesus on the cross paves the way for out forgiveness and relationship with God

1John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

* Our praise provides a clear and unhindered access

Psalm 100:4 *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*

1. **Praise Promotes Productivity**

* Reports from the workplace state that praise increases productivity

Psalm 67:5-6 *May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.*  *Then the land yields its harvest; and God, our God, blesses us.*

QUOTE: “The Hallelujah Factor”

“*When we praise, productivity is maximised, fulfillment is realised, and frustration is neutralised.”*

* This helps in chasing away the blues
* When our focus is on the Lord, the promise of Isaiah becomes ours

Isaiah 61:3 *and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour.*

1. **Praise is a Testimony and an Encouragement**

* Many people pray in a crisis whether a believer or not.
  + Those born of God praise

Colossians 3:16 *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

 Ephesians 5:19 …*speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord…*

* We have 52 corporate opportunities each year to demonstrate our hope in Christ.
  + The Early Church met more often than that.

Hebrews 10:23-25 *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.  And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,**not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

* Hold unswervingly to hope
* Spur one another on
* Don’t give up meeting
* Encourage one another
* Day of the Lord approaches.

ILLUSTRATION: *Two missionaries travelled to southern Mexico to work among the Chol Indians. Among other ministries, they laboured 25 years to translate the New Testament into the local language. Today, more than 12,000 make up the Chol Christian Community – which, by the way, is financially self-supporting. What’s most amazing, however is that even though the locals didn’t know how to sing when the missionaries arrived, they’ve since become known as “the singers”.*

*“They love to sing now,”, said George Sweeting in* Psalms of the Heart, *“because now they have something to sing about.” (pp70-71)*

**Conclusion:** Let your praise Arise and Shine!