

Master's Arts—4

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Praise and Joy and Contentment—Words and thoughts Glorifying God

(Jesus speaking:) Saying words of praise is like shining a bright beam of light into the eyes of someone lurking in the darkness. They can't see straight and are apt to stumble around a bit. If the enemy is lurking around you, telling you that this thing or that thing is wrong, and making the list longer by the moment of all the things wrong he thinks your Heavenly Father did or didn't do, then please, help yourself to the light. Turn it on as brightly as you can by uttering words of praise. These will expose who the true trouble makers are, and get you feeling all cheery as the light shines all around you.

(Jesus speaking:) Hallelujah! The Angels sing in unison, their hearts like chimes and bells ringing out in praise. The very sound of their voice to Me in praise stirs the celestial harps and they play out the music that accompanies the praise. And so is it with you, when you are praising Me and giving Me glory, that I stir the strings and make music play in your life. Just like the mood music on a film sets the feelings and shows what is happening, so will the music I play along with your life, set your mood. When you sing and rejoice, then I play lovely, heart lifting music to cheer you and lift you. It sets the scene for something good happening next, as the music picks up and inspires you onward. If you dwell in the lower notes, and think about the sad times, then the music goes on a minor key, and the stage changes to darker settings, and the script of the play changes too, to be a more sobering part. If you feel like you are in that part of life, rejoice and be exceeding glad! This will get the music changing to the positive, and the rest of the setting will follow. You are in a play that God is watching. You have a lot to do with the way the script goes, and the music that is played along with it. Your voice of praise and joy in the Lord make the best scenes happen. —Ones that never would have, if you hadn't rejoiced in the Lord.

(Jesus speaking:) One, Two, Three—Praise! Hardly let a few seconds pass before you shout out, or say out, or sing out—or just whisper out a praise of thanksgiving to Me when a saddening, or maddening thought starts to trouble you. You know those “he's got it better than me” type of thoughts. Or “why didn't I get what I was hoping for” or the “ouch, I'm really in pain”. That is the time to do the One-Two-Three game of praise. I'll give you three seconds to quickly change your thoughts. But if you linger any longer in the unpleasant way of looking at things and really letting your feelings DE-velop, and deteriorate, it's going to be much harder to pull out of it. And I might have to give you a little token of care, a lesson you'll remember. I'll make things a bit hard for you, so you'll remember not to let in the things that will hurt you and others. Because once the seeds of negativity

enter your heart, and are allowed to grow a bit, then you'll start to say things that will hurt and offend others. Then this makes so much more work for you and others to fix the troubles. It's unpleasant for Me to see others also getting discouraged, when you are meant to be helping each other up. So remember this, okay? One-Two-Three, Praise! So trouble doesn't come your way.

(Jesus speaking:) Have a whole lot of happiness on your lips. You don't have to feel it, did you know? You can smile just because you don't want to give the enemy a chance to discourage another person through your frown. You don't have to feel all cheery and bright to say a cheerful "Hello". You and I can work out the difficult things later, and get solutions. But when you are looking at others, speaking to them, and interacting, that is the time to "Let your light shine." What is your light? The light of love that looks like joy. Smile, even if you don't know what you are smiling about. You don't have to have a reason to. And you don't have to frown just because you feel you do have a reason, or a ton of reasons to. Let Me work out your issues with you when we are alone together in prayer, or talking things out while walking in the yard, or when praying with your parents or a friend about something that is troubling you. But make a smile be your usual attire and apparel. Do you have a reason to put on your clothes today? Or is it just a habit and what feels more comfortable doing, and what is more enjoyed by those around you? So it is with a smile. You just need to put it on, as a way for your face to show a praise to God, and to fill the lips with something Godly to do, so that there isn't a place for a frown to be put on. Make it be your daily-wear outfit, for most of the time.

(Jesus speaking:) I'll play a game with you. I'll say a word or topic, and then you think as quickly as you can about something it can remind you to be thankful for. I'll start with easy ones, like the things you like. "Sunshine" "good food" "fun activities" are real easy ones, for the beginner level entering this game. Once you get the hang of it, I might try and give you something a bit harder to say something thankful about, like, "growing up" or "learning a skill" or "writing a song". These might have more feelings attached to them, so you have to think a little bit more about the good side of them, as they do require work and patience. But sometime today you might be faced with a higher level of the game, something that takes a lot of skill to still think of something you are thankful for when that thought or idea or word comes to mind. Maybe something comes to mind, or maybe someone says something discouraging to you, or you read something you wish you hadn't, and it knocked you down a bit. That's why playing the game with Me in advance might help you get skilled at it when it comes at you in real life. Let's try it now. Can you still think of something you are thankful for when I say hard level words like, "missing out" or "hurt again in the same place" or "it's completely broken"? Super skilled disciples can do it without blinking, but few are able to pass up to that top level. But it's easy to do, if you realise that everything that happens to you in life, good or bad, will one day be forgotten, as you enter your Heavenly Home and have so many new and much better things to think about. Here on Earth is your only chance to really learn to play this game of gratitude and get skilled at it. And those that get high marks and score well are those that will get extra goodies down there, as well as up here in Heaven too. So do your best to pass the test, and let each thought trigger a praise, no matter how hard it is at first to think of it. Pause and pray and then a good word say.