

# The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind

## Study Guide

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**RECOGNIZE THE POWER OF YOUR PRAISE**  
*But you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise*  
(ISAIAH 60:18).

Praise sustains and develops us in the midst of uncertainty. It keeps us focused on what is eternal. It is our response to the unchanging, consistent nature of God. We offer God thanks for what He does, but praise is a response to His nature and character—His eternal attributes.

In Revelation 21:21, we see this gate again and learn that it is made out of solid pearl. How are pearls formed in an oyster? Through irritation and conflict. A granule of sand gets inside an oyster shell, and a pearl forms around the granule to keep it from doing harm. The Bible's pairing of praise with irritation is not coincidental. When we are stuck in conflict and uncertainty, and yet we praise Him without manipulation, it is a sacrifice. We are not merely praising God to get something out of Him, or using it as a formula, in hopes of simply adjusting our circumstances. We know who He is. We are grounded in the fact that He is faithful. In praise, we are responding to what we know and what we are sure of concerning the unchanging character of God.

Just as irritation produces a pearl in the oyster, something beautiful is formed in us as we praise God in the midst of uncertainty. Praise forms a gate—a place of entry where the King of Glory can come in and invade our situation.

Praise responds to God for who He is. This allows us to keep our situations and circumstances in appropriate perspective. Remember, we are not denying the reality of our problems; however, we are denying them a place of emphasis. What will our point of focus be? If it is God, then we will surely praise, for such is the only fitting response to beholding Him.

If our focus is our problem, we position ourselves to experience the theology adjustment we studied about yesterday. When our problems are in greater focus than God, our theology about God is reshaped according to the problem. However, when our focus upon the Lord is greater than our problem, our theology dictates the level of influence that the problem has over our lives.

Even in uncertainty, we can deny our problems that place of influence over our lives. Praise is what maintains this perspective. When God is magnified in our sight, everything else comes into proper focus.

### TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT

Praise is our response to the unchanging character and nature of God. It reveals that we are anchored in the midst of uncertainty, that we know who God is, and even builds and matures us through the process.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways can praising God build you up while you are going through a time of uncertainty?
2. Write down some obvious character traits that you can praise God for right now—especially if you are currently going through a season of uncertainty, while waiting for one of His promises to come to pass.

## TRANSFORMATION PRAYER

*I will bless You at all times, Lord. Your praise shall continually be in my mouth! You are my steadfast anchor through every season. Your Word is eternally true. Even though situations and circumstances change, You are the Lord who does not change. I praise You for everything You are!*