



# *“Sacrifice of Praise”*

*Dr. Crawford Loritts*

## ***Background and Scripture Verses***

Why have we selected the topic of “thanksgiving and praise” this year?

Who is Dr. Crawford Loritts?

Who is David? Why is he known for “praising”?

### Psalm 9:1-2

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

### 1 Chronicles 29:9-13

Then, the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly. Therefore, David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

### Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God.



# *“Sacrifice of Praise”*

*Dr. Crawford Loritts*

## **Video Notes**

Dr. Crawford Loritts is the Senior Pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, GA. They are currently in the midst of a fundraising project relative to growing their missionary work/support. Dr. Loritts preached this message on March 8<sup>th</sup> with specific focus on praising God for what He has done in the past, and what he will do in the future. Use the page below to take notes during the video. The bolded text below indicates the topics (main points) of his sermon.

**The main scripture reference for this sermon comes from Psalm 9:1-2 and 1 Chronicles 29:9-13**

### ***Praise Looks Back***

We're so caught up with where we want to be that we don't have the fuel to sustain us.

David's praise does not overflow from spontaneous emotion.

David is talking about cultivating a mindset of praise.

David says if he waits to praise God after everything is lined then everything will never be lined up.

It is the act of praising that gives birth to the emotions. (dancing with his wife)

### ***I Will Give Thanks***

I'm gonna speak to my self-centeredness.

I'm gonna speak to my entitled mindset.

I'm gonna sit down and shut up.

I'm gonna force myself to be grateful.

### ***I Will Recount***

It's in the recounting that gives focus to your moment.

You're never gonna be relevant by focusing on relevance. You'll be relevant by remembering where you came from.

### ***I Will Be Glad***

Praise changes your attitude.

### **Praise Looks to the Future**

There is an anticipatory aspect of praise. 1 Chronicles 29:

Praising God for what hasn't happened yet

Can we be confident today that God has spoken to our hearts if it's not explicitly mentioned in the scriptures. Yes, how:

- witness of the Spirit

- confirmation of Godly people
- arrangement of circumstances
- consistency of desire
- the fact that it does not violate God's word

these factors together indicate that God is leading and speaking

God's what-ifs throughout the Bible always pre-supposes gaps.

The doing of the work is not the miracle, but you become the miracle in the process of doing the work.

Philippians 4:6: by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving.

Anticipatory praise has a faith component about it.

David is praising God for what will take place. Not speculatively but with confidence.

David praises God for two important things:

- his limitless power
- his limitless resources



# "Sacrifice of Praise"

Dr. Crawford Loritts

## **Small Group Breakout Discussion Guide**

Please Divide into the Following Groups and Work Through the Questions Together as a Group:

- Elam, Covey, B. Kirk
- Dobbins, Anderton, Jennette
- B. Gilchrist, Lambert, Kyatt
- Worrell, J. Gilchrist, D. Kirk
- Kight, Jaeger, 8-Ball, Robo Sr.
- Eubanks, Hollan, Robo Jr, Commish
- Sid, Tom, Rich, Superman

### **Discussion Point #1: Praise Looks Back**

- a. Which of the following statements by Dr. Loritts speaks to you most? Why? Explain.
  - *David's praise does not overflow from spontaneous emotion.*
  - *David is talking about cultivating a mindset of praise.*
  - *David says if he waits to praise God after everything is lined up, everything will never be lined up.*
  - *It is the act of praising that gives birth to the emotions. (dancing with his wife)*
- b. Over the past 3-5 years of your life, what you most thankful for? How often do you express your appreciation to the people around you that helped to make these things possible?

### **Discussion Point #2: I Will Give Thanks**

Dr. Loritts talked about self-centeredness, and entitlement.

- a. Do you naturally "give thanks"? Are you naturally a thankful person? If an observer watched you for the last 7-10 days of your life, what would that observer notice about your propensity to express thanks?
- b. What ways, or methods, do you enjoy expressing thanks to those around you? Are you a face-to-face person, or are you a written note/email person? Neither? How does your spouse appreciate receiving thanks, and do you attempt to match her preference/style?

**Discussion Point #3: I Will Recount**

Dr. Loritts said: "You're never gonna be relevant by focusing on relevance. You'll be relevant by remembering where you came from."

- a. Each group member should take 3-5 minutes to tell the group "where you came from". Talk about how and where you were raised. What are you most thankful for from your childhood?
  
- b. If you could somehow reconnect with a person from your childhood (teacher, neighbor, coach, parent, sibling, etc..), who would it be, and what would you thank them for?

**Discussion Point #4: Praise Looks to the Future**

- a. Dr. Loritts said: "God's what-ifs throughout the Bible always pre-supposes gaps. The doing of the work is not the miracle, but you become the miracle in the process of doing the work." What is he talking about? Discuss this with your group.
  
- b. Praising God for what has not yet happened is an act of worship.  
Are there things in your life, coming down the road in the next few months or weeks, that you know will be challenging? Are you ready to praise God for these things? Explain.
  
- c. Do you trust that God has limitless power and limitless resources, as David expresses in his prayer?



# *“Sacrifice of Praise”*

*Dr. Crawford Loritts*

## ***Individual Commitment Time***

Let's put a plan of action together for how we will utilize what we've studied here today. This activity is personal for you, and you will not be asked to share this with the group.

***Part 1: Write out 2-3 statements below that describe how you will express praise/thanksgiving to someone in your life. Each statement must contain who, how, what, and when.***

### **Statement #1:**

Who will you express praise to?

How will you do it?

Specifically for what?

When will you do this?

### **Statement #2:**

Who will you express praise to?

How will you do it?

Specifically for what?

When will you do this?

**Part 2: Think about the when, what, and how you express praise to God. As we know, praising God can happen in many different forms. One of the most common forms of thanksgiving is through prayer. Think through the questions listed below. Focus on the ones that speak to you. Be tough on yourself. If you don't like your answers to some of these questions, spend time making notes on what you will change.**

How often do you talk to God? How often do you listen to God?

Have you ever told someone "my thoughts and prayers are with you"?  
And if so, did you do it? Did you really continue praying for that person?

Make a list of people you have specifically prayed for, by name, at some point over the last 7 days.

When you pray, do you find yourself praying for things and outcomes you desire, or do you genuinely and desperately pray for God to control the outcome? (This is not intended to suggest that one way is right, and one way is wrong. There is a time/place/method for both, but it is important to know the difference.)

How often do you pray together with your spouse?

If someone asked you to pray out loud in a group setting, how would you feel? Does your answer reveal anything about your prayer life that you believe should change?

How often do you reflect on the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ?

Have you ever been completely overwhelmed by the thought of what He went through?

Think about the things that get you on fire for God.....music, studying scripture, mission work, etc... What forms of worship and praise are most meaningful to you?