

Praise in my life

My lifestyle of praise began when I was young. My fondest memories are hearing my mother sing her way through life's circumstances and my father pray with his Dutch accent. My parents bought an old piano, but with eleven children, they could not afford piano lessons for me. I relished evenings alone in the basement, longing to express the fullness in my heart as I learned, note by note, to play the songs we sang at church. As soon as I had my first part-time job at age fifteen, I began to study with The Royal Conservatory of Music. Ever since, my passion has been to express praise to God through music and teach others.

When I left my parents' home for university, I experienced a stressful time in my life. As other things consumed my interest, my desire to seek God steadily dulled. Eventually, my life lost direction and I was tossed about. Frustrated, disillusioned, my grades suffering, I wondered why my half-hearted attempts to witness for Jesus had no impact.

One afternoon, my thoughts in turmoil, I heard a voice say: "Go home." An evangelist was scheduled to speak at our home church that evening. I immediately went home to attend the service. During the message, all I could think about was getting to the altar to meet with God. When the altar call finally came, I knelt on the floor, wept and poured out my heart to God in a flood of tears. After a few moments, God's presence filled my soul with supernatural peace. Suddenly, I began to praise God with words I did not understand. That night I received the fullness of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Daily I grew in Holy Spirit faith, freedom and confidence. After getting married, my husband Steve helped me receive more of God's unconditional love and share it with others. While hosting a ladies' Bible study, a new dimension of praise became real to me. I discovered how to hear God's voice, not because of a crisis, but for the sheer joy of getting to know Him and finding out what pleases Him. I began to journal my walk of faith as God's Word became my personal love letter. I also began to write songs to express the spiritual truth I received. For many years, I have accepted every opportunity to lead praise and worship. These included Bible studies, prayer meetings, church services, retreats and outreaches. God has always been faithful to save, heal, deliver and set people free as we have praised Him.

After filling many volumes of journals, the Lord inspired me to write a book. A message burned in my heart—how praise brings breakthroughs in our everyday lives. Practicing the progression from praise to worship into God's supernatural realm becomes possible only when we understand praise and how it works. *Praise: The Gateway to Miracles* parallels the five stages of pregnancy with the progression of praise, to show how praise releases miracles. Topics include *Spiritually Awakened*, *The Body Language of Love*, *Touching Jesus*, *God's DNA*, *Divine Cravings*, *Brooding*, *The Cry of Travail* and *Shouting Praise*, with sketches from my own experiences of birthing and raising five daughters, as well as from many well-known and some unknown praising men and women of God.

I pray that you too will develop a lifestyle of continuous praise, to open Heaven's gates and receive multiplied miracles in your life.



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