

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed!

(1 Peter 1:3)

Does God need our praise?

“Blesséd be the Father...” On the whole, one expects praise to come from superiors, teachers and parents. In this Bible verse, however, it is the regenerated children who are called upon to praise the Father. That was the first thing which occurred to me about my youth, which was steeped in a charismatic background. There, praising God was high up on the agenda. Today, this kind of praise and worship is not so important for me. Of course I can be moved by those songs, but the rest has become alien to me. This leads to the question, „How do I praise God today?“ To be honest, I find our congregational singing on Sundays hard going. Too slow, too lethargic, without emotion. So what does this mean? Do I still praise God at all? Is that important? Does God even need my praise? But it seems that these are the

wrong questions to ask, and I don't want to start analyzing the praise of God.

Actually it should come gushing out of me! It should be a sense of burning in my heart! I should be so inspired by God and his love, that I can do nothing else but praise him. Something seems to be wrong with me. Can it be that God's incredible love, the grace to dwell in him, to be born again, that his presence and daily care in all situations of life, are now things which I take for granted? Am I really grateful for all of this? Grateful people are more joyful, balanced and kind, and they praise more often. Maybe there is something in that old saying: That which fills the heart, flows out from the mouth!

Judith Bader-Reissing

Contact: judith.bader-reissing@emk.de

Translation: Chris Woodhead

I GIVE THANKS

- for God's indescribable love for all people, which – as our Father – he offers unconditionally
- for God's faithfulness and his irrevocable „Yes“ to us all
- for God's never-ending patience which he shows to his people

I PRAY

- for eyes that are open, and which recognize and discern God's goodness and grace
- for a grateful heart, which „burns“ for Jesus
- for God's Spirit, to shake me awake and fill me with praise
- for a mouth which bubbles over.

Women's Work

Women's Work wants to encourage women to shape their lives out of the fullness of God. Among other ways this goal will be achieved by stimulating personal faith and spiritual life in our churches; helping women and girls to find their identity as people loved by God; helping them to positively shape their interpersonal relationships.

Contact:

EmK Women's Work
Giebelstraße 16
70499 Stuttgart

Phone: 0711 8600670

E-Mail: geschaefsstelle@emk-frauen.de

Internet: www.emk-frauen.de