

Why Allah Wants Us to Praise Him

In the Quran, Allah instructs believers to praise and glorify Him consistently (e.g., 33:42, 20:130, 74:3, 76:25).

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ ذِكْرًا كَثِيرًا
وَسَبِّحُوهُ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا

O You who have believed, remember Allah with much remembrance, and glorify Him morning and evening.

فَاصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ غُرُوبِهَا وَمِنْ أَنَاءِ اللَّيْلِ فَسَبِّحْ وَأَطْرَافَ النَّهَارِ لَعَلَّكَ تَرْضَىٰ

Glorify your Rabb with His praise before sun rise and before sunset, glorify Him during the hours of night as well as both ends of the day, so that you may find satisfaction.

وَرَبِّكَ فَكَبِّرْ

Proclaim the greatness of your Rabb.

وَاذْكُرْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا

Glorify the name of your Rabb morning and evening.

Question is why Allah (SWT) wants us to praise Him, while Allah is self-sufficient and transcends all needs?

Allah commands us to praise Him day and night not because He needs our praise, but because it benefits us spiritually, emotionally, and morally. This command serves profound spiritual, psychological, and existential purposes for humanity.

Here's a structured explanation:

1. **Fulfillment of Human Purpose**:

The Quran states,

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

"I did not create jinn and humans except to worship Me" (51:56). Praise (*tasbīḥ*) and gratitude (*shukr*) are core forms of worship, aligning humans with their primordial purpose: recognizing the Creator and submitting to His wisdom.

2. **Spiritual Nourishment and Mindfulness**:

Constant remembrance (*dhikr*) through praise cultivates God-consciousness (*taqwā*), which the Quran describes as a safeguard against sin (29:45).

اتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ
وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ

It nurtures humility, reminding humans of their dependence on Allah and His infinite greatness, countering arrogance, greed, negativity and worldly attachment. Brings inner peace and closeness to Him

3. **Inner Peace and Gratitude**:

Praise fosters gratitude, a quality repeatedly linked to divine blessings in the Quran (14:7).

وَإِذْ تَأَذَّنَ رَبُّكُمْ لَئِن شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ وَلَئِن كَفَرْتُمْ إِنَّ عَذَابِي لَشَدِيدٌ

Gratitude transforms one's perspective, allowing believers to see trials as opportunities and blessings as gifts, leading to contentment. As Allah says, "Hearts find peace in the remembrance of Allah" (13:28).

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُمْ بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ

4. **Universal Harmony**:

All creation inherently glorifies Allah (17:44, 24:41).

تُسَبِّحُ لَهُ السَّمَاوَاتُ السَّبْعُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَمَنْ فِيهِنَّ وَإِنْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا يُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِهِ وَلَكِنْ لَا تَفْقَهُونَ تَسْبِيحَهُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ حَلِيمًا غَفُورًا

. Praising Him are the seven heavens, and the earth, and everyone in them. There is not a thing that does not glorify Him with praise, but you do not understand their praises. He is indeed Forbearing and Forgiving.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالطَّيْرِ صَافَاتٍ كُلُّ قَدْ عَلِمَ صَلَاتَهُ وَتَسْبِيحَهُ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ

. Do you not realize that Allah is glorified by whatever is in the heavens and the earth, and even by the birds in formation? Each knows its prayer and its manner of praise. Allah knows well what they do.

Human praise joins this cosmic symphony, reinforcing our connection to the universe's divine order. It reflects submission to the natural **fitrah** (innate disposition) to acknowledge the Creator.

5. ****Communal and Ethical Impact****:

Collective praise strengthens communal bonds and moral resolve. It reminds societies of shared values, justice, and accountability, as seen in the lives of prophets who modeled constant gratitude and reliance on Allah.

6. ****Theological Perspective****:

Scholars like Ibn Kathir emphasize that such commands are acts of mercy, not divine need. Al-Ghazali highlights how **dhikr** purifies the soul, aligning it with higher truths. Praise is a means for spiritual elevation, not a transactional obligation

7. A Means of Attaining Rewards:

Allah, in His infinite mercy, rewards those who remember and praise Him. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The uttering of 'Subḥānallāh' (Glory be to Allah), 'Alḥamdulillāh' (Praise be to Allah), 'Lā ilāha illallāh' (There is no god but Allah), and 'Allāhu Akbar' (Allah is the Greatest) is dearer to me than anything over which the sun rises." (Sahih Muslim)

8. Acknowledging Allah's Majesty and Perfection

Allah is Al-Azeem (The Magnificent) and Al-Kabeer (The Most Great). Our praise is recognition of His supreme attributes and infinite wisdom.

Conclusion

Allah does not need our praise, but we need to praise Him for our own well-being. It strengthens our faith, purifies our hearts, and increases our gratitude and patience. By constantly remembering and glorifying Allah, we align ourselves with the ultimate purpose of life and earn His mercy and blessings. In essence, Allah's command to praise Him is a profound gift—a path to transcendence, self-realization, and harmony with creation. It is less about affirming His majesty (which is absolute, regardless of human action) and more about guiding humanity toward its ultimate flourishing.