

Thursday 20 May 2021

*Neh.9,5: "Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise."*

*Eph.5,19: "Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalm, hymns, and songs from the Spirit."*

When we consider the many instances where people spontaneously or out of a sense of propriety, stand up and express praise and admiration and joy, we get a sense of the fact that we are beings who have an innate desire to praise. What we praise and are in awe of reveals in a measure where our trust, our hope, our confidence lies or what it is directed towards.

The question of the authenticity and sincerity of faith in God is revealed by the desire and will to praise God. That is brought out, for instance, in the famous words of Job out of suffering: *"The LORD gave, the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."* (1,21) And also Ps.73,25.26: *"Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever."*

What will stir the heart to the praise of God but the knowledge of God? This let us seek where it is revealed – in Christ, by the Spirit.