

Praise with the exclamation point is admiring God because of who He is—not for what He has done—but for who He is. So, what is it about His name that is so worthy of praise? Let's look in John's gospel and think about the names that Jesus gave Himself to see if we can find some praiseworthy opportunities:

"I am the bread of life" (John 6:35). Just as we need food for physical nourishment, Jesus is our source of spiritual nourishment.

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). In a world that is full of darkness, Jesus is the One who shines the light to guide us.

"I am the gate for the sheep" (John 10:7). As a shepherd opens the gate for his sheep, so Jesus opens the way for us to have access to God.

"I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11). As the Good Shepherd, Jesus watches over and protects us.

"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). For those of us in Christ, Jesus is the assurance that death does not have the final victory.

"I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). By saying these words, Jesus is telling us that He is the ONLY way to God because He embodies the truth of God and the life of God.

"I am the true vine" (John 15:1). Jesus promises us (as branches) that if we remain attached to Him, life and Godhonoring fruitfulness will flow from us.

Wow! Wow! How can Christ be all those things for us?

I believe it's because:

1. HE IS OMNISCIENT.

He is all-knowing. He knows me better than I know myself! Wow!

2. HE IS OMNIPRESENT.

He is all-present. He is with me wherever I go! Wow!

3. HE IS OMNIPOTENT.

He is all-powerful. Nothing and no one is more powerful than my God! Wow!

"Omni," of course, means "all"—and maybe that's why He is called our "all in all" (1 Corinthians 15:28). He is everything we need. He is certainly worthy of our praise—our praise with an exclamation point!

The psalmist goes on to ask, "Who is like the Lord our God?" (Psalm 113:5), and I believe we know the answer to that question: NO ONE! Wow!

Several people have been credited with this quote, but that doesn't take away from the importance of it: "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

Take a moment and reflect on who Jesus is, who He is to you, who He is to our world. Think about Him until He takes your breath away, until you are in absolute awe of Him. That's praise with an exclamation point!

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6 ESV). And, dear believer, "everything" includes YOU!