

HEBREW WORDS FOR PRAISE

HALAL

Hebrew meaning: To laud, to boast, to celebrate clamorously, to be loudly foolish, to make a show, to spin or jump with joy; to shine.

"Halal" is spoken or shouted and used to express jubilation along with physical actions like dancing or clapping; used in grateful response to the mighty acts of God that He has done for you, personally.

- 2 Samuel 22:4 - "I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: (HALAL) so shall I be saved from my enemies."
- Psalm 117:2- "For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise (HALAL) the LORD."

YADAH

Hebrew meaning: To lift the hands and throw them forward while making a confession about God's greatness and giving thanks, praise, and acknowledgment.

In "Yadah" praise, the body and the mouth praise the Lord together, both expressing gratitude to God at the same time; heavily focused on thanksgiving to God, for specific reasons, His responses in times of crisis, comfort in distress, deliverance, mercy, and anticipation of an answered prayer.

- Psalm 28:7, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I was helped; therefore my heart rejoices, and with my song I will thank (YADAH) Him."
- Psalm 107:1, "Oh, give thanks (YADAH) unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!"

BARAK

Hebrew meaning: To bow down, to kneel, to bend low in order to show submission, reverence or humility; to bring one's self low before a king.

In "Barak" praise, the worshipper willingly brings themselves low before the King, in order to lift Him high. "Barak" is a physical position of lowness, not an emotional one, born from a heart so impressed with His mighty acts, His help, and His mercy in our lives that we cannot help but fall to our knees.

- Psalm 28:6, "Blessed be the Lord, because He has heard the voice of my supplications." Psalm 103:2, "Bless (BARAK) the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."
- Psalm 145:2, "Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever."

TOWDAH

Hebrew meaning: Derived from "Yadah" - to lift the hands, but more specifically the raising of the hands in praise as a *sacrifice* of the flesh in thanksgiving.

In "Towdah" praise, the hands are lifted not only in praise but as an act of putting down the flesh to offer a physical sacrifice of *self* to the Lord. In the OT, Towdah was a flesh and blood offering. Under the New Covenant, you are offering *yourself* to the Lord.

- Psalm 50:23, "Whoever sacrifices a thank offering (TOWDAH) glorifies Me and makes a way; I will show him the salvation of God."
- Psalm 100:4, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, (TOWDAH) and into His courts with praise; be thankful to Him, and bless His name."

SHABACH

Hebrew meaning: To shout loudly in triumph, praise, and glory.

The shout of "Shabach" is your passionate, vibrant witness to the power of God. It is a shout that stills all other voices like doubt, fear, pain, and the voice of the enemy. Shabach praise is a faith-filled battle cry unto the Lord.

- Psalm 63:3, "Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise (SHABACH) You."
- Psalm 145:4, "One generation shall praise (SHABACH) Your works to another, and declare Your mighty acts."

ZAMAR

Hebrew meaning: To play a musical instrument while singing.

"Zamar" praise holds a spiritual power that even the enemy understands because it drives him out. He will try to counterfeit this praise, to put focus more on performance than praise.

Zamar is a weapon of spiritual warfare both in the congregation and privately.

- Psalm 27:6, "Now my head will be lifted up above my enemies encircling me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises (ZAMAR) to the Lord."
- 2 Sam. 22:50, "Therefore, I praise You, O Lord, among the nations; I sing praises (ZAMAR) to Your name."

TEHILLAH

Hebrew meaning: To praise, celebrate and glory in the Lord; a "new song", a spirit-led, spontaneous hymn of testimony from the worshipper.

"Tehillah" praise is frequently translated as "a new song". It is birthed from within you, and is the most intimate form of praise because it expresses the unique testimonies and words of your spirit.

- Psalm 22:3, "But You are holy, O You who dwells within the praises (TEHILLAH) of Israel."
- Psalm 40:3, "He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise (TEHILLAH) to our God; many will see it, and fear, and will trust in the Lord."