



Why do we praise Hashem so much during prayer?

How do we understand the words of Chazal in *Pirkei Avos*: Everything that G-d created in His world, He did not create but for His glory. As is stated (*Isaiah 43:7*): "All that is called by My name and for My glory, I created it, formed it, also I made it."?

Hashem does not need our praises or our honoring of Him.

In fact, nothing we may say in praise of Him can do Him justice, as we say in Nishmas on Shabbos:

Were our mouths as full of song as the sea, and our tongue as full of joyous song as its multitude of waves, and our lips as full of praise as the breadth of the heavens, and our eyes as brilliant as the sun and the moon, and our hands as outspread as the eagles of the sky and our feet as swift as hinds -- we still could not thank You sufficiently, Hashem our G-d and G-d of our forefathers, and to bless Your Name for even one of the thousand, thousands of thousands and myriad myriads of favors, miracles and wonders that you performed for our ancestors and for us.

So what does it mean: Everything that G-d created in His world, He did not create but for His glory?

The answer is that of course Hashem does not seek glory, however, **the surest way to bring people to love Him, thereby meriting eternal paradise, is through the revelation of His glory.** As the Rambam writes:

What is the path [to attain] love and fear of Him? When a person contemplates His wondrous and great deeds and creations and appreciates His infinite wisdom that surpasses all comparison, he will immediately love, praise, and glorify [Him], yearning with tremendous desire to know [G-d's] great name, as David stated: "My soul thirsts for the Lord, for the living G-d" [Tehillim 42:3]. When he [continues] to reflect on these same matters, he will immediately recoil in awe and fear, appreciating how he is a tiny, lowly, and dark creature, standing with his flimsy, limited, wisdom before He who is of perfect knowledge, as David stated: "When I see Your heavens, the work of Your fingers...[I wonder] what is man that You should recall Him" [Tehillim 8:4-5].
(Rambam, *Yesodei HaTorah* Chap. 2)

This is the reason we try to praise Hashem in whatever small way we can.

