

Victory Through Praise

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I. Introductory Remarks.

Psalm 89:15-18 *Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance. In Your name they rejoice all day long, and in Your righteousness they are exalted. For You are the glory of their strength, and in Your favor our horn is exalted. For our shield belongs to the LORD, And our king to the Holy One of Israel.*

In this message I would like to talk about one of the most important truths that causes our victory and enables us to continually look at our lives through God's perspective. This is a truth, if we get a hold of it, that will cause us to keep our lives God centered or our focus continually on Him no matter what the circumstances are in our lives and as a result we will walk in the light of His countenance.

What I want to talk about is our ability to praise God continually and through everything; and how important our praise to God is in keeping our focus centered upon Jesus Christ and what He has accomplished for us.

II. We Have Been Called To Give Praise Unto God.

Before we get to far in this message let's look at the fact that God has truly called us to give praises unto Him continually and to glorify His name in everything that we do. Praise unto God should be a part of our everyday lifestyle as a Christian. It isn't something we just do when we come into the assembly of the saints, but something that is to be done both individually and corporately.

Psalms 22:23 *You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!*

1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

It is through praise that God wants us to acknowledge Who He is and what He has done for us. It is also a time for us to acknowledge who we are in Christ. This is a way in which His Word and victory gets sealed in our hearts when we practice this on a regular basis.

Psalms 34:1 *I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

Psalms 35:28 *And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness and of Your praise all the day long.*

As you can see, the scriptures point out very clearly that God desires for each one of us to give unto Him the praise and the glory that is due His name. But this is not just for His benefit, it is also for our benefit. God realizes that when we praise Him for all of His wonderful works and benefits we are speaking faith into our spirits and minds.

Praise is the language or the confession of faith and the more we praise God for what He has done and is doing in our lives, the more we realize the victory we have and of which we are presently walking in.

III. God Has Ordained Victory Through Praise.

This is the essence of what this message is all about. It's of vital importance that we all see and perceive in our spirits the importance that our praise unto God is in relationship to the personal & corporate victories He desires to give unto us.

1. The Example of King Jehoshaphat.

King Jehoshaphat experienced a great victory that caused his enemies to be put into subjection when he led his people into praise and worship.

2 Chronicles 20:18-22 *Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. (Verse 22).*

2. This Kind Of Victory Is For All Who Praise Him.

This is the same victory the Lord wants to give to us when we come before Him in praise and worship. We need to realize that our enemies are fleeing and being brought into a state of confusion as we begin to worship and praise the Lord.

Psalms 68:1-4 *Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those also who hate Him flee before Him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish at the presence of God. But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name YAH, And rejoice before Him.*

When we offer God our praise we are causing Him to arise in our midst and put to flight the spiritual hosts of wickedness that are trying to defeat us.

IV. Victory Comes Through The Sacrifice Of Praise.

I believe most of us here today enjoy praising and worshipping the Lord and do understand to a degree what praise and worship is all about. What I want to focus on are those times when we find ourselves without hope and in a pit of despair.

God is after the praise that comes in the midst of great trials, great difficulty, grief, sickness, demonic oppression, temptation, relational difficulties and financial problems. Are you able to praise God as enthusiastically during those times? If not, then this message is for your benefit.

Hebrews 13:15 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

1. The Example Of Jonah.

The story of Jonah is a very graphic example of what it means to give unto the Lord the sacrifice of praise in the midst of debilitating circumstances.

Jonah 2:7-10 *"When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple. "Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD." So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.*

Instead of murmuring and complaining about his situation, Jonah does the right thing. He turns his attention towards God through prayer and praise.

2. The Example Of Paul & Silas In Prison.

In Acts 16 we find the story of Paul and Silas being beaten and thrown into prison because of the message of their zeal to preach the gospel no matter what the cost.

Acts 16:22-26 *While in prison they were found praising God and singing hymns and as a result there was a great earthquake that shook the foundations of the prison.*

Do you want the chains that you find yourself bound up in from time to time to be loosed by the power of God so that you can get on with your life in Christ and walk in victory? If so, praise God in the midst of your difficulty and watch Him set you free.

V. Concluding Remarks.

Your mind wants to rule you. It wants to control you. The mind doesn't want to submit itself to the flow of the Spirit in the action of praise and worship. So it's up to you to bring your mind into submission and determine to praise God, even in the midst of difficulty. If so, He will replace the spirit of heaviness with the garment of praise.

Isaiah 61:1,3 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me... to comfort all who mourn, {3} to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

It is through praise that we are able to change our center of focus. Praise enables us to get our eyes off of ourselves and onto God, Who is able to lift us above the ash heap.

Let this be our prayer!

Psalms 106:47 Save us, O LORD our God, And gather us from among the Gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, and to triumph in Your praise.