

Power of Praise

By Bro. Jim

I am a born again believer and have been called out of that organized mess of a religion that passes itself today as “The Church”; for this I thank Almighty Jah on High for His mercies endure forever, Amen! I open with this statement to let you, the reader, know that I have spent my time in organized, man made church (Lutheran, then Methodist, and then a ‘non denomination’) and so what we are going to talk about today comes from personal experience. I have also been called to be a minister of the gospel of grace and a defender of the faith and as such I am only being obedient to God by taking time to expound on the things He has put on my heart onto the pages of this newsletter. With that short introduction let us now get down to business, amen.

There are many organized churches (denominations, non denominations, etc.) and though doctrines vary, order of services varies, attire varies, etc. there are a few common denominators in them all: usually there is preaching/teaching, there is prayer, and there is singing. It is this last component that I want to talk about today and that is the subject of praise. In many/most cases the singing portion of church service involves a choir that sings for the congregation and then also the congregation itself sings some songs as well. I have been in many a service where when it came to singing, it was just going through the motions. The songs were prearranged and most people stood up with blank looks on their collective faces and sang because, well, that’s what they were ‘supposed’ to do. Most of the time you can be assured that as they were singing, they were thinking about a great many other things (the game later that day, the ugly dress of the lady in the pew in front of them, etc.). It is my hope that upon the completion of this newsletter you will have a greater understanding of the profoundness of true praise and that you will begin to operate on a different level

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479-802-8035

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concerning the same. With that let us turn to our first passage, amen.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. 2 Cor. 10:3-6.

Please note in this passage the word “weapons”, plural found in verse four. We have **weapons** at our disposal to help us fight the good fight of faith. Dear man or woman of God, please understand that YOU are in a war for your soul. Your enemy isn’t some person in another country, of another race, ethnicity, political view, etc. Your enemy is Satan and the vast hosts of hell! Your enemies are cunning, evil, powerful, and do not rest day or night as they try to get untold millions to forget God and walk on the broad path to eternal destruction. You cannot fight this enemy with a carnal weapon, (gun, knife, bomb, etc.). This enemy is of a spiritual nature; therefore you need spiritual weapons to fight him! As this passage declares, God has given us WEAPONS to aid us in such a fight. One of these weapons is fasting (covered in the last issue); one of these weapons is prayer (we will cover in an upcoming issue), etc. I am here today to tell you that one of these weapons is PRAISE. That’s right, you read it correctly. With that let’s turn to the Word of God and find out more about this neglected but important weapon, amen!

"But thou *art* holy, O *thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel." Ps. 22:3

Right here we read a profound truth: that God inhabits, or is within the praise of His people! When you are truly singing and praising unto the Lord, He is on the scene! Think about that for a moment. Compare your current state of coming together to sing in church and it being just a boring, going through the motion type exercise vs. coming together to sing unto the Lord and if done correctly (we will discuss later in this issue) then God inhabits that praise! Who wouldn't want that? Amen. We see further proof of this declaration in the following passage:

"Who *is* like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who *is* like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful *in* praises, doing wonders?" Ex. 15:11.

The brethren I gather with for worship service sing this song and we have for years. But up until recently we didn't understand the significance where it says God is "fearful in praises". But I thank God that He continues to reveal Himself more perfectly to us! Amen. God not only inhabits the praise of His people, but He is fearful in those praises! You want God to fight for you? One of our weapons is praise and worship! Almighty God on High is fearful in praises!!!! Praise the Lord. This alone should make a Christian want to sing unto the Lord with power and faith and expect God to move on his or her part!!! Let's continue.

"{To the chief Musician upon Muthlabben, A Psalm of David.} I will praise *thee*, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High. When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence." Ps. 9:1-3.

Notice here that the topic is praise and when a Christian is praising God with his or her WHOLE HEART, showing forth marvel works and being glad and rejoicing in God (which is how to praise God correctly as alluding to moments ago) THEN the passage goes directly into talking about our enemies being turned back! Why? Because God inhabits the praise of His people and He is fearful in praises! As already stated, praise is one of our weapons, and now you should be seeing why that is a true statement! Praise the Lord!

"Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, *and* his praise in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. *Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;*" Ps. 149:1-6.

As we continue to reinforce this notion of praise being one of our weapons and God fighting for us in our praise we see in this passage the theme is praise and as in the previous psalm it goes from talking about praise to warfare. Notice the Psalmist is encouraging the saints to sing a new song unto the Lord (which can be done if we are free of sin, in the Spirit, and totally focused on praising God. New songs can just come forth. This is the level we want to be on when praising God. Do you realize that David was praising God so profoundly in one instance that his garment came off and he didn't even know it? It wasn't counted as sin unto him, even though his nakedness was exposed in front of everyone because he was so in the spirit praising God that he was unaware his garment fell off. Saints of God we need to praise the Lord in the spirit and expect profound things to happen when we praise. God inhabits those types of praises. God moves for us and fights for us in those types of praises! Notice in the passage above that the writer goes from talking about praise right into a sword in the hands of those that are praising the Lord. Once again, praise is ONE OF OUR WEAPONS! It just couldn't be any clearer than this, amen.

“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.” Acts 16:25-26.

In this passage in Acts we find Paul and Silas in jail in Corinth. Notice that it says that at midnight, (with their feet in the stocks I might add) they PRAYED and SANG. They could have sat there and complained. They could have been downcast. They could have said, “Why me God?” Instead of complaining, what did they do? They prayed and sang. Notice that once they began to do this, God moved on a profound level! The foundations of the prison were shaken! Maybe you are reading this newsletter and find yourself in prison to sin. Maybe you are currently bound. Well dear believer I'm here to tell you Jesus Christ came to set the captives free! He is more than enough to shake the foundation of your prison! He is more than enough to break every yoke! He is more than enough to break brass bands asunder! That's His part. Your part is to cry out to Him (pray) and SING. Sing to Him and praise His mighty name. Expect Him to inhabit your praises and fight for you! Expect that when you are singing, you are using one of your weapons! Now, be sure to know that if you are going to engage the enemy like this and expect to be set free your first prayer is a prayer of repentance. God isn't going to move on this level for you if you are holding on to sin. Is there anything you know you should not be doing and are still doing it, refusing to give it up? If so you have to let it go, count it as dung, and move forward. The only way to move forward is to walk in holiness before God. This means that you are not walking in sin, that no particular sin has dominion over you. For the record, if you find yourself in prison today, if you find yourself bound today, it is because of sin. If you want to pray then your first prayer is a prayer of repentance in brokenness before God. Once you have cleared this up and gotten clean, then praise Him and expect great things! There are other weapons (fasting, bible reading, etc.) so don't neglect them either but for the purpose of the topic at hand today, you can praise your God and in doing so, with a pure heart, expect Him to inhabit those praises and fight for you! Praise the Lord! Let's see what happens when a group of believers are obedient to God, faithful with His commands and then shout unto Him in praise:

“And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long *blast* with the ram's horn, *and* when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.” Jos. 6:5.

“So the people shouted when *the priests* blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.” Jos. 6:20.

We are all familiar with the Battle of Jericho. God's people were given specific instructions of what to do and what not to do. They were supposed to move their feet, and march around the city once a day for six days and on the seventh day march around it seven times. Once this was completed, they were to shout unto the Lord and expect God to move. During their marching, there were not to make one sound. For a group of people to do this and do it exactly as God commanded shows singleness of heart and mind. It shows a desire to obey God. This is what the Church needs today- singleness of mind and heart, obedience, and power. The church lacks this and that is why it is a defeated church. God says to come out of HER my people. But I digress, that is for another time. Back to Jericho, once their obedience was fulfilled, they shouted unto the Lord (praise) and THEN God moved, the walls of Jericho fell. Praise the Lord! These walls were so thick that people's homes were actually upon the walls (Josh. 2:15)! It made no difference to God because He is MORE than able. He will NEVER fail! Hallelujah!

Maybe some of you reading this today have some walls that needs to fall in your life? If so, it starts with obedience. Obey God first. Move your feet in obedience and then shout unto the Lord. God will move for you! Praise the Lord.

“And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put *it* under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.” Ex. 17:11-13.

In this passage Israel is fighting the Amalekites. Notice that when Moses' hands where raised, Israel would start to win the battle but when his hands lowered, the Amalekites would prevail. So, as brothers in Christ should, Aaron and Hur helped keep Moses' hands up toward God so that Israel could win the battle. Praise the Lord! There are many lessons here (brotherhood, bearing burdens, etc.) but the one I want to focus on, as pertaining to this newsletter is the praise portion. Notice that Israel only would prevail in this battle when Moses' hands were raised toward heaven. This illustrates the victory we can get when we praise God. Praise the Lord! When you praise God, praise Him however you are lead, but don't neglect to raise holy (key word HOLY) hands to Him, even as instructed in both Old and New Testaments (Ps. 134:2, 1Tim. 2:8). Praise the Lord!

Dear man or women of God it is my hope that you have a greater understanding of the power of praise in your life today. God inhabits the praises of His people! He is fearful in praises. If we come to him with clean hands and a pure heart and praise Him, we can expect great moves of God in our lives. This is the level we need to be on to praise the Lord. Some of you reading this are bound in sin today. As a born again believer it is not to be so. You find yourself in prison, feet fast in the stocks, and a slave to sin living a defeated life. But Jesus Christ died for you to give you life abundant. Jesus Christ died for your so that you could have power over sin, Satan, and the spirit of this world. If you are tired of living in defeat, tired of being bound, then the first thing you need to do is cry out to God and it needs to be a prayer of repentance. You must be willing to turn from your sin(s). Once you come to this place and have had enough and cry out to God and ask him to forgive your stubbornness, your iniquity, and your rebellion and to wash you in the precious blood of Jesus Christ, He will do it. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness. Don't let Satan lie to you anymore. Cry out to God today for today is the day of salvation! Once your garment is clean, then begin to praise Him with all of your might. Expect Him to inhabit your praises and to fight the enemies of your soul for you while you praise! The holy angels are always drawn to the praise of God. You want holy angles to be drawn to the scene, praise God with all of your might out of a pure heart and mind. Praise the Lord! Then, don't neglect bible reading, fasting, and fellowship with other true saints of God. You can have victory in your life no matter what the circumstance. But it starts TODAY. Praise the Lord. Amen and amen.

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Fellowship

For Prayer, call:

Bro. Brad 314.420.6358

Bro. Ben 513.474.7021

Bro. Oswald 787.420.6522

Bro. Jim 970.214.0375

Bro Benjamin 513.616.1412

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Visit us at:

www.gatheringofthesaints.com

Email:

info@gatheringofthesaints.com

Gathering of the Saints
PO Box 3004
Bentonville, AR 72712



Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code