

## Praise: Power for a Break-through

### Scripture:

Psalm 150 *“Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! <sup>2</sup>Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! <sup>3</sup>Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! <sup>4</sup>Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! <sup>5</sup>Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! <sup>6</sup>Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!*

### Introduction:

I want to share with you about the breakthrough power of praise. The Bible encourages us, and exhorts us, and even COMMANDS us to “PRAISE” the Lord. What is praise? “Oh, that’s easy. Praise is the three fast choruses we sing to start the meeting, and then worship is the three slow ones we sing after that!” Is that right? No it’s not. Did you realize that in the New Testament the words praise, worship, glory, and honour are ALL translated from the same one Greek word?! It’s true; the word is “doxa”, and its base meaning is GLORY. How it is translated depends solely on the context.

If there is any difference between praise and worship it is simply that WORSHIP is how we esteem God - it’s the attitude of adoration in the heart. You can worship God without a sound. PRAISE, however, is the articulation of that adoring heart. When we praise God we give vent and voice to our heart of worship.

There is awesome power in the act of praise that comes from an adoring heart.

### I. Praise has the power to give us a break-through into the manifest presence of God.

II Chronicles 5:11-14 *“And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions), <sup>12</sup>and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets—<sup>13</sup>indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: “For He is good, For His mercy endures forever,” that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, <sup>14</sup>so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.”*

- A. Praise has the power to experience such a presence of God that the way we do church has to change.
- B. When you have a break-through God takes over. All of His competition is surrendered.
- C. When we have a break-through God gives us lots of surprises because we don’t know what He’s going to do next.
- D. How this break-through comes.
  - 1. There is a sanctification of hearts and lives of the royal priesthood.
  - 2. There is a unity in the house.
  - 3. There is a great degree of respect for the goodness of God.
  - 4. The people are thankful for God’s mercy. (What He’s done for them)
  - 5. The royal priesthood began to lift up their voices and articulate their praise.
- E. When this happens we experience His manifest presence.

Psalm 22:3 *“But you are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.”*

### II. Praise has the power to give us a break-through into victory.

II Chronicles 20:15-22 *“And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. <sup>16</sup>Tomorrow go down against them.*

*They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. <sup>17</sup>You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you.” <sup>18</sup>And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. <sup>19</sup>Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high. <sup>20</sup>So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” <sup>21</sup>And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: “Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever.” <sup>22</sup>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.”*

- A. In the midst of your situation acknowledge that God is prepared to fight for you.
- B. Set yourself (get a word), stand still, (stand on that word) and see God’s word bring the victory.
- C. Begin to sing your song of victory before you see the enemy crumble.

### **III. Praise has the power to break through our burdens.**

*Isaiah 61:3 “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.”*

- A. Remember Joe Blisflik (I know this isn’t how he spelled or pronounced his name) from the Lil Abner cartoon strip. Always had a dark cloud over His head. If only he knew about praise.
- B. Praise has the power to effectuate a transfer. An exchange of the heaviness for that spirit of praise.
- C. Out of that heaviness comes men and women who are like strong trees planted by God Himself.

### **IV. Praise has such break-through power that captives can be set free.**

*Acts 16:25-26 “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.”*

- A. Midnight speaks of the darkest time of the situation.
- B. It was as bad as it could get, they couldn’t get any lower.
- C. But they had a song of praise in their spirits even if they were bound in the natural.
- D. Then a suddenly came into their lives.

### **Conclusion:**

*I Peter 2:9-10 “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; <sup>10</sup>who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”*