

THE POWER OF PRAISE

Psalm 8:1-2 ¹ O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. ²Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

- David learned a key spiritual concept during his life that helped him get strength from God in his trials and silence his enemies, something so simple that even a small child can practice it!
- Because the devil launches so MANY attacks against the children of God, the Lord has given us ONE weapon that will stand strong in the face of every assault and silence the enemy every time!
- Jesus referred to this same concept during His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As He came into the city and the people began to realize WHO JESUS WAS, they began to enthusiastically praise Him!

Matthew 21:15-16 ¹⁵And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased, ¹⁶And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

- Notice that DAVID said “out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou **ordained strength**” while JESUS said “out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast **perfected praise**.” Jesus did not misquote David; rather He interpreted the Scripture and explained the truth David had discovered. THERE IS SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH LOOSED ON OUR BEHALF WHEN WE PRAISE GOD!
- Your simple act of praise is bigger than you are, because it connects with a God who is bigger than you are! Praise accomplishes what we cannot accomplish, because it LAUNCHES SPIRITUAL WEAPONS at the enemy that demolish his strength and silence his voice.
- David had learned this in the laboratory of life. As long as he was praising God, situations involving his enemies were turned around!

1 Samuel 16:23 And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

1 Samuel 17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

1 Samuel 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

- David learned that in the desperate situations of life, our reactions become more and more childlike. But that is good, because **out of the simplicity of a childlike response comes the most powerful weapon God has ever unleashed to fight the enemy – PRAISE!**

Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Psalm 149:6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;

- **The Bible is filled with praise!** We don't apologize for our exuberance in worshipping God. We only apologize that more churches are not this way! With so many commandments and exhortations in the Bible to praise God, who in their right mind could call themselves a Christian and not praise God with exuberance?!
- **HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE WAYS DAVID FOUND TO PRAISE GOD AND SILENCE THE ENEMY:**

Psalm 113:1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. **(HALAL - to make a show, to boast, to be clamorously foolish, to rave)**

Psalm 115:18 But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. Praise the LORD. **(BARAK - to kneel in adoration)**

Psalm 116:2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. **(QARA - to call out, to preach, to proclaim, to cry unto)**

Psalm 116:17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. **(TOWDAH - a choir of worshippers with upraised hands)**

Psalm 117:1 O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. **(SHABACH – to address in a loud tone, triumph, glory)**

Psalm 118:1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever. **(YADAH - to worship with extended hands)**

Psalm 118:24 This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. **(GIYL - to spin around under the influence of violent emotion)**

Psalm 118:28 Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee. **(RUWM - to exalt, to extol, to lift up, to set on high)**

- Notice that all of these Biblical forms of worship demand a response through the **MOUTH** or through **MOTION**. There is no room for quiet, reserved worship that supposedly happens only “in the heart” – that is not Biblical worship! Biblical worship involves the whole man – body, soul and spirit – in worshipping God.
- **EVERY LOVE AFFAIR INVOLVES THE EMOTIONS!**
- **“But I’m just not the emotional type!”** What you mean is, you’re only emotional about things that are important to you! The Bible tells us that there’s only ONE KIND of person that is exempt from the command to praise ... ☺

Psalm 115:17 The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

- The Bible also makes these comments about “the dead” ... ☺

Ecclesiastes 9:4 For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for **a living dog is better than a dead lion.**

Matthew 8:22 But Jesus said unto him, **Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.**

Matthew 22:32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? **God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.**

- Psalm 146, 147, 148 and 149 all begin and end with the phrase “PRAISE YE THE LORD,” then in a final crescendo Psalm 150 declares ...

Psalm 150:1-6 ¹Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. ²Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. ³Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. ⁴Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. ⁵Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. ⁶**Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD.** Praise ye the LORD.

- The Bible teaches that the **MOUTH** is the center of spiritual warfare! The mouth can either launch the DEVIL’S weapons or GOD’S weapons.

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three **unclean spirits** like frogs come **out of the mouth** of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

James 3:6 And **the tongue is a fire**, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that **it defileth the whole body**, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Proverbs 18:21 **Death and life are in the power of the tongue:** and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Joel 3:10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: **let the weak say, I am strong.**

- The reason there’s a FALSE “name it and claim it” doctrine is because the Bible contains a TRUE “name it and claim it” principle!
- God didn’t keep Joseph from the pit, Daniel from the lions den, the Hebrew boys from the fiery furnace, or Paul and Silas from the prison – BUT BECAUSE THEY STARTED PRAISING INSTEAD OF POUTING, God walked with them through each situation!
- **WHICH WEAPON WILL YOU LAUNCH?** When you praise instead of panic, and worship instead of worry, God fights for you!

2 Chronicles 20:18-22 ¹⁸And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. ¹⁹And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high. ²⁰And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

²¹And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. ²²And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

- When David writes in Psalm 103 that we should “bless the Lord” he is not just saying that we bless the Lord because of past benefits. He is also telling us that AS WE BLESS THE LORD, we actually walk in the benefits of praise! (forgiveth, healeth, redeemeth, crowneth, satisfieth)

Psalm 103:1-5 ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: ³Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; ⁴Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; ⁵Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

- David uncovers the secret to silencing the enemy in Psalm 34. If you want to make the enemy look **SMALL**, then make God look **BIG** with your praise. **PRAISE DOESN'T CHANGE GOD'S POWER, IT CHANGES YOUR PERSPECTIVE!** Magnify the Lord in praise!

Psalm 34:1-4 ¹ I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. ²My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. ³**O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.** ⁴I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

- **YOU HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE – YOUR MOUTH CAN EITHER LAUNCH THE WEAPONS OF THE DEVIL TO DEFEAT YOU, OR THE WEAPON OF PRAISE TO GIVE YOU VICTORY!**
- **THE WORSHIPPER'S ALPHABET**
- You can talk about your **ANXIETIES**, or you can praise the Advocate, the All in All, the Almighty, the Alpha and Omega, the Altogether Lovely, the Amen, the Anointed, the Apostle of our Profession, the Author of Eternal Salvation, and the One who is Alive Forevermore.
- You can talk about your **BITTERNESS**, or you can praise the Banner, the Bearer of Sin, the Beginning and the Ending, the Beloved, the Buckler, the Branch, the Bread, the Blessed Hope, the Bridegroom, the Bright and Morning Star, and the One who is Before All Things.

- You can talk about your **CONCERNS**, or you can praise the Captain of our Salvation, the Chief Cornerstone, the Chosen of God, the Christ, the Chief Shepherd, the Cleft of the Rock, the Comforter, the Commander, the Consolation, the Counselor, the Creator, and the Chiefest Among Ten Thousand.
- You can talk about your **DEPRESSION**, or you can praise the Daysman, the Day Spring from on High, the Daystar to Arise, the Defense, the Deliverer, the Desire of all Nations, and the Dwelling Place.
- You can talk about your **EMPTINESS**, or you can praise the Elect, the Eternal God, the Everlasting Light, the Ensign, Emmanuel, the Everlasting Name, the Express Image of God, and the Everlasting Father.
- You can talk about your **FEARS**, or you can praise the Faithful and True, the Finisher of your Faith, the First Begotten of the Dead, the Firstborn, the Faithful High Priest, the Firstfruits of Them that Slept, the Fortress, the Foundation, the Fountain of Living Waters, the Friend of Sinners, the Faithful and True, the Foreordained before the Foundation of the World, and the Friend that Sticketh Closer than a Brother.
- You can talk about your **GUILT**, or you can praise the Gift of God, the Glorious Name, the Good Master, the Glory of God, God Blessed Forever, God Manifest in Flesh, God Who Avengeth Me, God With Us, God of My Strength, the Great Shepherd of the Sheep, the Guiltless, the Governor, the God of My Life, the Great God, the Guide, and the God of My Salvation.
- You can talk about your **HABITS**, or you can praise the Habitation of Justice, the Head of all Principality and Power, the Head of the Body, the Heir of All Things, the Helper, the Hidden Manna, the Hiding Place, the High Priest, the High Tower, the Holy One, the Hope of Glory, the Horn of Salvation, the House of Defense, and the High and Lofty One who Inhabiteth Eternity.
- You can talk about your **INSECURITIES**, or you can praise the I Am, the Innocent, Immanuel, and the Image of the Invisible God.
- You can talk about your **JEALOUSIES**, or you can praise Jesus Christ, the Judge of the Quick and the Dead, the Jasper Stone, the Just One, and the Judge of All the Earth.
- You can talk about your **KNOWLEDGE**, or you can praise the King of Glory, the King of Saints, the Keeper, the King Eternal, the King Immortal, the Kinsman, the King in His Beauty, the King Forever and Ever, the Kindness and Love of God, the King of Kings, and the King who Cometh in the Name of the Lord.

- You can talk about your **LONELINESS**, or you can praise the Last Adam, the Lawgiver, the Life, the Lifter Up of Mine Head, the Light of the World, the Lily of the Valleys, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Living Bread, the Lord of Lords, the Living God, the Lord God Almighty, the Lord of Glory, the Lowly in Heart, the Lord God Omnipotent, and the Lamb that was Slain before the Foundation of the World.
- You can talk about your **MISERY**, or you can praise the Magnified, the Maker, the Man Christ Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, the Manna, the Master, the Mediator, the Meek, the Mouth of God, the Merciful and Faithful High Priest, the Messiah, the Mighty God, the Morning Star, the Mystery of God, and the One who is Marvelous in our Eyes.
- You can talk about your **NEEDS**, or you can praise the Nazarene, the Nail Fastened in a Sure Place, and the Name Above Every Name.
- You can talk about your **OFFENSES**, or you can praise the Offering and Sacrifice, the Offspring of David, the Ointment Poured Forth, the Only Potentate, the Omega, the Only Wise God, and the Only Begotten of the Father.
- You can talk about your **PROBLEMS**, or you can praise the Passover, the Pavilion, the Perfect Man, the Physician, the Place of Refuge, the Portion of Mine Inheritance, the Potter, the Precious Corner Stone, the Preeminence, the Priest of the Most High God, the Prince and Saviour, the Prophet, the Propitiation, the Purifier, and the Prince of Peace.
- You can talk about your **QUESTIONS**, or you can praise the One who is the Quickening Spirit.
- You can talk about your **REASONS**, or you can praise the Rain, the Ransom for All, the Rabbi, the Redeemer, the Redemption, the Refiner's Fire, the Resting Place, the Righteousness of God, the Refuge in Times of Trouble, the Rock of Our Salvation, the Root and Offspring of David, the Rose of Sharon, the Ruler, the Reward for the Righteous, the Riches of His Glory, the Righteous Judge, the River of Water in a Dry Place, the Resurrection and the Life, and the Rock that is Higher Than I.
- You can talk about your **SADNESS**, or you can praise the Sacrifice for Sins, the Salvation of God, the Seed of the Woman, the Sanctuary, the Saving Strength of His Anointed, the Saviour of the World, the Scapegoat, the Scepter of Israel, the Secret, the Seed of Abraham, the Sent One, the Separate from Sinners, the Servant, the Shadow from the Heat, the Shelter, the Shepherd, the Shield, Shiloh, the Sign, the Son of the Living God, the Star of Jacob, the Sweet Smelling Saviour, the Stone which the Builders Rejected, the Strength of my Life, the Strong Consolation, the Stronghold, the Strong Tower from the Enemy, the Sure Foundation, and the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever.
- You can talk about your **TRIALS**, or you can praise the Tabernacle of God, the Temple, the Testator, the Treasure, the Teacher, the Testimony, the True Bread, the True Light, the True Vine, the True Witness, the Tender Mercy of God, the Truth, and the Tried Stone.
- You can talk about your **UNCERTAINTY**, or you can praise the Undeified, the Understanding, the Unknown God, the Unspeakable Gift, the Upright, and the Upholder of All Things.
- You can talk about your **VICTIMIZATION**, or you can praise the Very Great, the Veil, the Victory, the Very God of Peace, the Vine, the Voice, and the Very Present Help in Time of Trouble.
- You can talk about your **WEAKNESSES**, or you can praise the Wall of Fire, the Wave Offering, the Wedding Garment, the Well of Living Waters, the Wisdom of God, the Witness, the Well of Salvation, the Wonderful, the Word, the Worthy, the Wise Master Builder, and the Way, the Truth and the Life.
- You can talk about your **X-CUSES**, or you can praise the One who is X-cellent!
- You can talk about your **YEARNINGS**, or you can praise the One whose Yoke is easy and His Burden is Light.
- You can talk about your **ZEROS**, or you can praise the One who is the Zeal of the Lord of Hosts.
- **The secret to victory is CONTINUAL PRAISE**. This was the prelude that led to Pentecost (look at the last verse in Luke):
Luke 24:53 And were **continually** in the temple, **praising** and blessing God. Amen.
- The **ultimate expression** of praise is when you allow God to take control of your mouth (the center of spiritual warfare) and fill you with the Holy Ghost.
Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that **I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh**; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
Acts 2:39 For **the promise is unto you**, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.
Psalms 81:10 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: **open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it**.