

The Power of Worship & Praise

Taught by Sandy Harless

God inhabits our praises! Not just mine, Not just on Tuesday mornings, Not just on Sundays

But He inhabits YOUR praises at home, at work, cooking, cleaning, doing laundry, and any other mundane task

Every time you praise Him, Every time you worship Him, He is there to meet your needs.

When God's people come into His presence with thanksgiving and praise, warfare is waged against our enemies.

Psalm 8:2

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. Praising God with other believers releases explosive Faith that frightens the enemy.

Praise and worship breaks through all boundaries of talent and ability.

2 Corinthians 10:4

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Praise INVADES hell and EXCITES heaven!

Praise is not song style – but Praise IS

A declaration, and a victory cry proclaiming faith to stand firm in the place God has given you.

The enemy intends to PLUNDER you

Praise declares that you WILL NOT BE MOVED

Psalm 73: 25

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Let me tell you about a story of healing

THE PRAISE CURE

Missionary to China many years ago contracted small pox and was quarantined to her room completely covered in ugly marks from head to toe. Back then the doctors could do nothing and her fate was death

During fervent prayer, God spoke to her and told her to praise Him for His faithfulness to keep His own Word. He showed her a vision of 2 baskets, one containing her test and trial (smallpox), which was full.....the other containing her praise, which was only half full. God told her that the praise basket needed to outweigh her trial and when it was full, she would receive her healing.

She praised day and night as others feared for her life and her sanity. She sang from her heart for all God had ever done for her, for His greatness, His faithfulness, and for her healing. After several days the Lord showed her that the praise basket was full. She walked out of that room completely healed with skin as smooth and clear as a child's.

How do your baskets look this morning?

Are we so focused on the prayer of need that we forget the praise?

Praise in the Midst of Battles

During the reign of Jehoshaphat – King of Judah, Israel’s enemies rose up to destroy their nation.

TURN TO:

2 Chronicles Chapter 20:2

Jehoshaphat Defeats Moab and Ammon

1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites ^[a] came to make war on Jehoshaphat.

2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea!" It is already in Hazazon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi).

What did the King do?

- 1. Ordered everyone in Judah to fast and pray (vs 3,4)**
- 2. As their leader, he stood up in front of everyone and**
 - A. Proclaimed the power and might of God**
 - B. Quoted the promises of God**
 - C. Made their fears and requests known to God**
 - D. Waited for God to give them direction (vs 5-13)**

3 Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. 4 The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard 6 and said: "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. 7 O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? 8 They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, 9 'If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.'

10 "But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. 11 See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. 12 O our God, will you not judge them? **For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.**" 13 **All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD.**

Can you see the picture? All those innocent children’s faces, their fearful parents.....with no other choice but to WAIT for God to have an answer that will save their very lives.

Have you ever found yourself at the end of your rope w/ no hope? You’ve already thrown your fit of hysterics...there’s no energy left to worry....

Then God spoke to them (in vs 14-17):

**“Do not be afraid or discouraged
The battle is not yours, but Mine
You will not have to fight this battle.
Stand firm and see the deliverance I will give you
Go face this battle and I will be with you”**

14 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly.

15 He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. 17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.' "

**Okay, so they were out-numbered (this was a VAST army)
And they were out-powered
And their direction from God was to forge ahead and not to fear**

What would your response be?

(vs 18)

**The King bowed, face to the ground in praise
Everyone fell down before God in worship
Others praised in very loud voices**

It's okay to be on your face in worship, and it's okay to be loud!

18 Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD. 19 Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with very loud voice.

**(vs 20) The next morning they left for battle
The king appointed men to lead the army singing Praises to God!**

“Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.”

Let's get this straight:

**There were out-numbered, out-powered, but going forth anyway...
And their front line of defense was a CHOIR???**

But here is what they didn't see as they sang:

**As they sang the Lord, the enemies fought against and DESTROYED EACH OTHER.
By the time the men of Judah got to the battleground, all they saw were DEAD BODIES!
Not only were they safe, but then they got the plunder of valuable things...way more than they could even carry home! It took them 3 days to collect it all!**

20 Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."

21 After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his ^[d] holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

"Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."

22 As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. 23 The men of Ammon and Moab rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

24 When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. 25 So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing ^[e] and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it. 26 On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, where they praised the LORD. This is why it is called the Valley of Beracah ^[f] to this day.

27 Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies. **28 They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the LORD with harps and lutes and trumpets.**

The bible never limits praise and worship to an organ.

29 The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

30 And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.

**When we live a life of prayer, praise and worship....we can have rest on every side.
Our offensive weapon against the enemy is not to fight, but to Praise!
Satan will flee when we praise,
because at the sound of heartfelt praises, God is on the scene!**

Psalm 22:3 (King James Version)

**3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest
the praises of Israel.**

Praise in spite of circumstances or “feelings”

**Give praise and glory to God in the face of every obstacle
Before we see the victory.**

**Don't praise God FOR the trial
 FOR the sickness or
 FOR the tests satan may bring**

**We don't praise God FOR the evil circumstance;
We praise IN SPITE OF the circumstance in FAITH**

Because your trust is in HIM to see you through to victory

**When the children of Israel faced their enemy, they just PRAISED GOD;
they didn't ask for anything
We cannot manipulate God with praise, but the great thing is
We don't have to! He wants to bless our lives for His glory**

2 Cor 1:20 NIV

20For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

God's said YES to His promises to us in His Son Jesus!

We honor and give glory to God by coming into agreement with and accepting His promises for our life. That's what we mean when we say "Amen"

Take Your Position of Praise

Learn to sing God's praises when the enemy comes against you.

Take authority over the enemy in the name of Jesus, but then focus your attention on the Lord by praising Him. The enemy will have to flee!

Do what the Israelites did: Don't be afraid; the battle is not yours, it is God's; Stand on God's word and praise Him; Trust Him for your victory.

Your Spiritual Jerichos

Turn to Joshua 6:1-5

You know the story. This was the 1st battle the Israelites fought after they crossed the Jordan to take possession of their Promised Land. This was a locked up city with a King and a vicious army surrounded by great walls...no one went... no one came in.

God gave them a great plan. Here's all they had to do:

Have a quiet parade around the city once a day for 6 days.

**On day 7, march around the city 7 times,
blowing trumpets and shouting praises to God really loud
....the city will just fall at your feet...**

King, vicious army and everything.

Do you think you would need to actually see God in the flesh and hear his audible voice to have faith in these instructions?

1 Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. 2 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. 3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in."

They were obedient.....They received their victory!

God has placed desires and goals into each of our hearts, and we will come up against our own Jerichos.

These pursuits and dreams are His will for our lives and will be accomplished by HIS power for HIS glory....not by our own might and strength....and we will give Him all the praise for it.

When you see those walls in front of you, come against them one by one with the Word of God:

"Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world!" 1Jn4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me."

Phil 4:13_ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

"By His stripes I am healed." 1Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

"I am MORE than a conqueror through Christ." Rom 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

"God always promises me the victory in every circumstance!" 2Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

"All of my needs are met according to God's riches in glory through Christ Jesus." Phil 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

When you come against your circumstances, you begin to praise God wholeheartedly in faith. You will watch as those walls or obstacles fall down in front of you!

No devil or evil circumstance can stay in your presence when you learn how to praise God sincerely with your whole heart!

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Praise: A Way of Life!

Psalm 57:57 NIV (KJV)

My heart is steadfast (fixed), O God, my heart is steadfast (fixed); I will sing and make music (give praise).

Are we *fixed* in praise?

We will never know everything God has done for us, or is currently working on our behalf behind the scenes. If we knew all, we'd be praising Him night and day without ceasing.

If we truly make an effort to walk in praise and gratitude, we will see our attitude change, so will our friends and family. We just studied this with Joyce Meyer.

Praise brings Encouragement to our spirit

Strength to our life (Neh 8:10)

Change to our homes

Emotional balance & JOY

Physical healing

Positive attitude

Hope to the hopeless

Increased faith and belief

Victory

Encouragement to others:

Psalm 34:1-3 (New International Version)

- 1 I will extol the LORD at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
2 My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
3 Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

2 Corinthians 2:15 (New International Version)

For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

Blessings

Psalm 67:5-6 (New International Version)

- 5 May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.
6 Then the land will yield its harvest,
and God, our God, will bless us.**

Increase comes as a result of a life of praise

Sincere praise moves God. You cannot use it to manipulate God into giving you what you want, but when it comes from your heart God is moved because you are demonstrating your faith in Him.

This doesn't mean you will not have problems, or heartaches, or mountains to climb. But if you are walking in obedience to God's word, praise will move those mountains!

God is a BIG God. He does not depend on natural circumstances to bless you.....He is a SUPERNATURAL GOD that moves in the supernatural. He can use anything He wants.

Thankfulness

Turn to Luke 17:11-19

Leprosy is a disease, but also a type of sin. The 10 lepers were healed of a physical skin disease, but anyone who has sin in their life is also in need of cleansing by the blood of Jesus.

Luke 17:11-19 (New International Version)

11Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

12As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy^[a] met him. They stood at a distance

13and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

14When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

15One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

17Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

10 lepers asked for cleansing, but only one returned to thank Jesus, and Jesus commended him for that. In fact, Jesus indicated that his thanks and praise had something to do with his Faith making him well, or "whole" in KJV.

All 10 lepers were cleansed from their disease, but only one was made whole....

Have you been made whole?

Psalm 103:1-4 (New International Version)

**1 Praise the LORD, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**

**2 Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits-**

**3 who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,**

**4 who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,**

Resource:

"The UnTapped Power in Praise" by Kenneth Hagin, Jr