

Two Examples of Praise

In the Old Testament, there is a story about how people from three different countries gathered together to attack Jerusalem. Needless to say, the king and the people were quite worried. They gathered together to seek God through fasting and prayer. After prayer, God spoke to them, saying that they should not worry, the battle was the Lord's.

The next day, they went out to meet their enemies. However, instead of the army leading the way, the choir did! And instead of fighting, they started to shout praises to God. A great miracle then took place. The enemy became confused and started to attack one another. They ended up killing themselves, and Jerusalem won a great victory! You can find this story in 2 Chronicles, chapter 20.



Victory in Prison!

A similar story is in Acts chapter 16. Here, Paul and Silas were out preaching the Gospel. Some of the people persecuted them, beat them and threw them into prison. At midnight, instead of crying and complaining, they lifted up their voices and praised God. Just at that time, an earthquake happened, shaking the jail and they were set free. They then preached to the jailer, and he and his family got saved!



Both of these stories illustrate a wonderful principle in the Bible. That principle is: there is power in your praise.

Notice what happened. In both cases, the people found themselves in very difficult situations. They were threatened beyond their human

capability. Instead of losing all faith and drowning in worry and self pity, they pushed aside their fears and troubles and praised God. God then gave them a great victory.



Why do you think that praise is so powerful? It is because praise is an act of faith that releases God's sovereign authority into your life. By praising God, you are declaring that Jesus is the Lord your life and not your circumstances, and that He will work on your behalf in your situation.

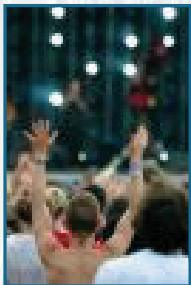
Praise God with your whole heart!

Maybe it would be good to have a definition of praise. True praise is an enthusiastic outflow of love, joy and appreciation from our hearts to God. It is when we get our eyes off of our own selves and thank Him for who He is, what He has done - and what He will yet do for us.

He is Worthy!

So Who is God? He is only the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And what has He done? He left His glory in heaven to suffer a cruel death upon a cross - so that He could set us free from sin and death. And what is He doing now? He leads and guides us. He sets us free from our bondages. He fills us with His love and goodness. He answers our prayers and makes us successful in all we do!

Most people do not really know how to praise God. For some reason, people can get excited about sports, concerts, or when their son or daughter perform well in the school play. But when it comes to God, we feel that we have to be somber and emotionless. It does not make sense, does it?!



So if we can get excited at sporting events over athletes who do marvelous deeds, but will never ever do one thing to help us individually, we can certainly get excited about the One who saved us, blesses us and gave us eternal life. He is worthy of our praise!

So the next time you are facing an impossible situation, do what Israel did when they were facing their giants! Seek God in prayer and the Word. And then praise Him! Trust Him with your heart and rejoice in His goodness and mercy. Watch and see what the Lord will do for you!

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The Power of Praise!



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