

Praise the Lord

PRAISE CHANGES THINGS

Our God wants a people who will not only pray but also praise Him. The Bible is full of stories of victorious men because they praised the Lord. The walls of Jericho fell when Israel praised God. Paul and Silas were delivered from prison and won others to Christ because they praised God. Acts 16:25

If there are needs in our lives, or we desire requests for others, bring them in prayer before the Lord. Then by continued praise we will be assured of the victory.

Praise changes things! You kneel in prayer, yet do not contact God. Try praising Him and He will flood your soul with His divine presence.

Perhaps you do not like the noise that praise brings, or you feel it unnecessary and seemingly very foolish.

In Psalms 98:4, David exhorts the people to make a loud noise, rejoice and sing praises unto the Lord. If the world can make a loud noise during recreation hours, how much more should His people glorify His name by giving Him praise continually? "His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1.

It is necessary for God commands it, "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6.

If it looks foolish remember, "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise." I Cor. 1:27.

Again you say you do not feel like praising God. "Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God." Hebrews 13:15.

Do you desire to be filled with His spirit? Offer Him praise; faith will arise in your heart and you will receive the promised gift. Acts 2:39.

Have you prayed for a revival and it has been withheld? Cease praying and begin to praise. "The Lord will add to the church such as should be saved." Acts 2:47.

If you are in a testing place, surrounded by circumstances which point to defeat, praise the Lord for five minutes and in the glory of God's presence, all things will be possible. Praise is a tonic for the blues and a sure cure for every disease.

In Luke 19:40, Jesus declares that He will have a people who will praise Him. Start praising the Lord now and the victory is yours.

Praise His name, He's the same blessed Jesus!
Praise His name, He's the One I adore.
Praise Him, Praise Him. Praise Him.
Praise Him more and more and more!

Yes, learn to praise God now, for heaven will be filled with the praises of the redeemed. "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude and as the voice of many waters and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying Alleluia: for the Lord god omnipotent reigneth." Rev. 19:6.

MIGHTIER THAN ARMIES

"Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's" (2Chron. 20:15).

In the story of Jehoshaphat, as recorded in 2 Chronicles 20, we find a perfect outline of God's plan for our victory over any problem or danger that confronts the Christian. The story is told simply and in detail, so that we may not miss one single important step in gaining victory over the difficulty or danger that threatens us who are God's children.

Jehoshaphat had been a good king over Judah. He "sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel" (2 Chronicles 17:4). He took away the high places and the groves out of Judah." (2 Chronicles 17:6). He set up a traveling or circuit "Bible School," sending priests and princes to the cities of Judah teaching the "Book of the Law" (2 Chronicles 17:7-10). He also established a system of courts and judges at Jerusalem and throughout Judah, that justice might be done in all cases of controversy between the citizens of Judah (2 Chronicles 19:5-11).

Yet, in spite of this, God permitted the armies of the Moabites, the ammonites and the inhabitants of Mount Seir to come up against Jehoshaphat and the kingdom of Judah, to make war with them. Here, then, begins the story of God's deliverance, not only for Jehoshaphat and the armies of Judah, but for all Christians who will follow Jehoshaphat's example and do what he proceeded to do.

The first thing Jehoshaphat did when danger confronted him, was to turn to the Lord in fasting and prayer.

"And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord" (2 Chronicles 20:3-4).

If America, faced with all our enemies in warfare, should turn to the Lord in prayer and fasting as did Jehoshaphat and Judah, it would be an easy thing for God to deliver us. Instead, we rely on our armies, our wealth, and our H-bombs—and so we know no security and no peace.

Now, as we face the enemy in on our own land—Muslims and ISIS, what will the outcome be, especially when we realize they desire to systematically erase our peaceful ways of life forever?

Many prayers are going up in our nation, from individuals, prayer groups, and in churches, for peace. But there is no national call for prayer, no actual reliance upon God and His ways, little fasting and little faith in God's way of deliverance.

Next, Jehoshaphat, as the nation's head, stood up in the great congregation and led them in prayer.

"And said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? And rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? And in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?"

"Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend forever?"

"And they dwell therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,

"If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence (for thy name is in this house), and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

"And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;

"Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. "O our God, wilt thou not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee (2 Chronicles 20: 5-12).

In this prayer Jehoshaphat reminded God of His promise to Abraham that He would give this land to his seed. Also of the building of the temple and of Solomon's prayer at the dedication that when evil would come upon them, if they would stand before the temple and pray, that God would "hear and help."

The Christian today who faces danger or trouble or is in need can likewise remind God of His Word and the precious promises recorded therein, that God will hear our cries and answer our prayer and deliver us.

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jeremiah29:13).

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (Jer.33 :3).

Jehoshaphat confessed that he and his people were powerless before the hosts of the approaching enemy, and that they didn't know what to do, but they were looking to the lord to deliver them somehow; and that is faith. It is humility. That is the attitude that God loves and honors. When a man admits his helplessness but affirms his faith in God to bring him through.

"O our God, wilt thou not judge them? For we have no might against us; neither know we what to do" but our eyes are upon thee" (2 Chronicles 20: 12).

The king was not alone in his prayer.

"And all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives and their children" (Verse 13).

Joel urges the same nationwide consecration, when danger threatens: "Blow the trumpet in Zion, Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts, let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

"Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?"

"Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people" (Joel 2:15-18).

God has promised in His word that whenever His people call on Him in earnest, in repentance, in humility and in desperation, that He will hear and answer.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

How will God answer? He will answer in one or more ways: by His Word, as we read it; by "speaking in a "still small voice" to our hearts as we pray; by providence, the opening or shutting of doors beyond our own efforts or ability; by prophecy through the lips of a consecrated prophet of God, one with the true give of prophecy. (Not all modern-day so-called "prophecies" are the pure voice of God speaking. It takes a humble and consecrated vessel to bear God's divine message).

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Mathew 7:7).

In Jehoshaphat's case God answered through a prophecy coming from the lips of the prophet Jahaziel.

"And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

"Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

“Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you” (verses 15-17).

Oh, if God’s people today could only accept this charge! Be not afraid not dismayed...for the battle is not yours, but God’s...Ye shall not need to fight in this battle...for the Lord will be with you.”

We fuss and fume and fear and cry and try every worldly way under the sun to get ourselves out of the predicaments we allow ourselves to get into, instead of humbling ourselves before God, acknowledging our inability to cope with the situation and assuring Him that we are looking to Him to work it out in His wisdom and might.

God cannot carry our burdens until we really “turn them over to Him.” He cannot keep our bodies in health until we commit them entirely into His keeping. He cannot keep our business, our homes, our children, our lives, until we wholeheartedly and sincerely have committed them into His keeping. Until we’ve “taken our hands off” and let Him take full control of our situation.

Apostle Paul had perfect peace because he had made a perfect committal. We have only partial peace in body, mind, and spirit, because we’ve made only a partial commitment to Him.

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that “WHICH I HAVE COMMITTED UNTO HIM against that day” (2 Timothy 1:12).

Jehoshaphat had done several important things up to this point.

1. He had called the nation and himself to fasting and prayer.
2. He had reminded God of His promised protection.
3. Had acknowledged that they had no might of their own with which to face the enemy, and that they were relying on God for deliverance.
4. He had received full instructions as to what he must do.

The next step is incredibly important:

Many Christians fall down here and lose the victory that God has for them:

5. Jehoshaphat accepted the answer as from God and did set about to be obedient.

Many times we Christians, after praying desperately about a situation or a problem or a sickness, get God’s answer, either from His Word, or in our own hearts, or through someone’s prophecy or sermon, or God’s open door, But we refuse to accept it as from God. We doubt and fear and question and continue in our defeat. Why? I suppose it’s because God’s answer is so contrary to the world as to seem ridiculous to us; and we forget that...

“The foolishness of God is wiser than men” (1 Cor. 1:25), and that “the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God” (1 Cor. 3:19).

Jehoshaphat did not question God’s Voice or His Wisdom, though it was a great and foolish thing, from the human standpoint, that god had commanded him to do.

“And 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.”

And 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 (Verses 18-19).

What was it that God had commanded Jehoshaphat to do?

He, with the people of Judah, was to go out against the multitudes arrayed against them. They were to go out NOW—the very next day. But they were commanded NOT TO FIGHT. They were to “stand still, and see the salvation of the lord” (Verse 17).

Often the “standing still” in the face of the enemy is harder than trying to go forward: “Not to fight” is much harder than fighting. Waiting on the Lord to move is much harder than making futile motions of our own; but the glorious promise that HE was to go with them!

Be not afraid nor dismayed, by reason of this multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s (Verse 15).

Jehoshaphat had prayed, he had asked God’s help; he had admitted his own helplessness; he had thrown himself entirely into the hands of God; God had answered; had told Jehoshaphat what to do; Jehoshaphat had accepted, without questioning, murmuring or disputing God’s command; he had thanked God for His answer and for his victory.

Next, Jehoshaphat set himself to carry out God’s orders, regardless of their seemingly “foolishness.”

“And they rose early in the morning and went forth into the wilderness of Tekon: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear ye, 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,” (Verses 20-21)

Picture what they were doing at God command! Imagine the President of the United States as Commander-in-chief of the armed forces of America reviewing his troops as they face an invading enemy army. And, after praying and receiving God’s answer, picture him sending them out to face the foe with the command that they were NO TO FIRE A SINGLE SHOT or DROP A SINGLE BOMB!

And, more, picture the Commander-in-chief appointing a battalion of singers to lead the army, not singing the usual army songs but singing, “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.”

That is exactly what Jehoshaphat was ordered to do and that is precisely what he did.

And that is what God is commanding you to do in a personal way as you face your “enemy,” to “fear not,” to “stand still,” to “praise the Lord,” to “see the salvation of the Lord,” for “the battle is not yours, but God’s.”

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

“Commit thy way unto the Lord: trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:5).

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

“And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?” (1 Peter 3:13).

And what is the promised result? It was the very victory that Jehoshaphat and Judah enjoyed. The same miraculous victory that God gave to Gideon and his 300 followers who held only trumpets and candles in their hands as they faced an enemy as “sands of the sea” for numbers (Judges 7).

God only works miracles when nothing but a miracle will save us. As long as our human hands are TRYING TO WORK out our own salvation, no miracle is promised or forthcoming.

When we recognize that we are at the end of our human resources, and are completely surrendered to the will, the mercy and power of God, then He can step in and work a miracle in our behalf.

“And 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. For the children of ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

“And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped”

“When they began to sing and praise”(Verses 22-24).

Not only were Jehoshaphat and the inhabitants of Judah spared from harm, by obeying God’s unusual orders, but they came home laden with wealth. It took them three days to gather up the spoil from the bodies of the dead soldiers who had come up against Jerusalem.

“And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much” (2 Chronicles 20:25).

The people under Jehoshaphat came home rejoicing and in triumph.

“Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

“And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the Lord” (Verses 27-28).

Not only were the people of Judah blessed, but this great victory was a huge testimony to others!

“And the fear of the Lord was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel.

“So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about” (Verses 29-30).

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Praise the Lord for this object lesson! Praise the Lord for a formula that will always work against the devil or any of his agents!

Praise the Lord for the way to have victory over trouble, sickness, poverty, defeat, danger—whatever the adversary brings up against us!

“Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 15:57).

Let’s sum up the steps to victory over every foe:

1. Immediately turn to God in prayer and fasting. “This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. (Mat. 17:21)
2. Call for others to join you in prayer. “If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 18:19).

3. Remind God of His promises in His Holy Word. Assure Him that you are standing on those promises, believing and relying on His pledged Word. “I will hasten my word to perform it” (Jer. 1:12). “God is not a man that He should lie; neither the son of man that He should repent; hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good? (Numbers 23:19).

4. Confess that you are unable to overcome the difficulty, but that you are relying on God for wisdom and help, and promise Him that **WHATEVER** He tells you to do, you **WILL DO IT**. “I can of my own self do nothing” (John 5:30). “But the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works.” (John 14:10).⁵⁴ Wait on God for the answer. Seek to learn His will through prayer, searching the Scriptures, Hearing the Word, or through the providential opening and closing of doors. “Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord” (Psalm 27:14).

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6. When God’s answer comes, do not question, doubt, fear or argue, no matter how foolish it sounds. Check it with God’s Word. God doesn’t guide contrary to His Word. “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

7. Obey what God’s Word or God’s voice has told you to do. “Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it (John 2:5).

8. Thank God for the victory, **NOW**, immediately, **BEFORE** the answer comes into being. “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

9. **TRUST GOD**. Be prepared to “stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.” Commit the whole matter to Him. Leave it on His shoulders. Remember, “The battle is **NOT** yours, but God’s.) “Casting all your care upon Him; for **he careth for you**” (1 Peter 5:7).

10. Go forth rejoicing, singing praises unto God, ignoring circumstances, symptoms, appearances, the size or ferocity of the enemy. Keep your eyes upon the Lord Jesus.

Praise Him, Praise Him. Praise Him. Knowing that God “always causeth us to triumph in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:14). Rejoice that God through Christ Jesus has taken over the situation. And rejoice, knowing that **WHEN GIVEN A FREE HAND**, God has **NEVER LOST A BATTLE**. Only when we tie His hands by our lack of commitment does He fail.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Do these things that Jehoshaphat did and you will come through the battle unscathed. More, you will bring home the spoils of victory. Then rejoice all the more. Let the neighbors and the heathen know that once more God has triumphed over evil.

Rejoice!

“Ye will not have to fight . . . Set yourselves . . . Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord . . . For the battle is not yours but God’s.”

Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

STRONGER THAN STONE WALLS

And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand, Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

“And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

“And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams’ horns; and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

“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 ascent up every man straight before him.” (Joshua 6:2-5)

When Joshua led the children of Israel against Jericho, the first great walled cit they encountered in the promised land, it was obedience and praise that brought the victory.

First, they were to compass the city early in the morning.

“And Joshua rose early in the morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord.” (Joshua 6:12) “And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day and compassed the city after the same manner seven times.” (Josh. 6:15)

If you want to meet God, meet Him early in the morning.

“Because they have not hearkened to my words, saith the Lord, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; but ye would not hear, saith the Lord.” (Jer. 29:19)

THE SECRET

I met God in the morning
When my day was at its best,
And His presence came like sunrise,
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered,
All day long He stayed with me.
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O’er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed,
But th winds that seemed to drive them
Brought to us a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,
With a keen remorse of mind,
When I, too, had loosed the moorings,
With the Presence left behind.

So I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a troubled way;
You must seek Him in the morning
If you want Him through the day!

—Ralph S. Cushman

Second, the Israelites were commanded to “keep their mouths shut.” They were not to speak a word as they marched around the city.

“And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.” (Josh. 6:10). Why?

If they had been allowed to speak, no doubt they would have been commenting on the size of the city, the height of the wall, the strength of the enemy, the impossibility of the task, the foolishness of their leader, etc.

If we would enjoy victory over the enemy we, too, must learn to “keep our moth shut.”

So often, as we walk around a sick bed or some other obstacle to our faith, we let our tongue express our doubts and fears and unbelief, and lose the victory. We say, ‘My, he looks bad doesn’t he?’ “They say it’s cancer; poor fellow!”, etc.

Third, God commanded the Israelites to compass the city seven days and seven times on the seventh day. In other words – to persevere.

Too many of us, when confronted by the enemy, pray once or twice, and if the enemy doesn’t flee, we lose heart, give up and are defeated.

Elisha the Prophet, just before his death, was provoked with the King, Joash, for his lack of perseverance.

“And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.

“And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldst have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shall smite Syria but thrice” (2 Kings 13:18-19).

Jesus teaches us in the story of the healing of the Syro-Phoenician woman’s daughter (Matthew 15: 21-28) and the parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18: 1-7) that we are to “hang on” to God’s promises—how long?—until Victory comes. When God’s Word says, “Yes!”, don’t take “NO” for an answer.

“let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: (for he is faithful that promised)” (Hebrews 10:23).

“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.” (Heb. 10:36).

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to STAND” (Ephesians 6:13).

Fourth, the people were commanded to Shout the Victory BEFORE the Victory came, BEFORE the walls fell, BEFORE THE WALLS FELL, BEFORE the city was taken. They were to shout the walls down, rather than pray them down, or wait until they fell, before praising God for their Victory.

Jesus thanked the Father for raising Lazarus to life—BEFORE He commanded the dead man to Come Forth!” (John 11: 41-43).

If we must “wait until we are sure we’re sure we are healed” before we testify and praise God for healing us, it shows our unbelief in God’s promise to do what His Word says HE WILL DO.

MORE POWERFUL THAN PRISONS

“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 everyone’s bands were loosed” (Acts 16:22-26).

For casting the evil spirit out of a fortune teller, Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into jail, their feet were thrust into stocks, and there they lay—in a dark, dirty dungeon, their backs bleeding, their sense of justice outraged, their opportunity for self-pity perfect.

But instead of whining or complaining, Paul and Silas decided to praise God for this opportunity to suffer for the sake of Jesus. And as they began to pray and sing praises, the Lord, who was watching and hearing in heaven, sent an earthquake to tear the jail apart; their fetters fell off and they were free; the jail became a mission hall, and an entire household was saved!

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations” (James 1:2).

“But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; tha, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy” (1 Peter 4:13).

GREATER THAN SICKNESS

“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases” (Psalm 103:1-3).

Prayer for the sick is powerful, and deliverance is promised by the prayer of faith, but even mightier is Praise from the believing heart, for the health that God has promised, and which you know must come because His Word Says So!

David sang this great truth on the hills of Judaea as he kept his father’s sheep and trusted the Lord to keep him as safely.

“Who healeth all thy diseases” (Psalm 103:3).

“There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling, For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. The shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone” (Psalm 91:10-13).

“And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee” (Exodus 23:25).

“Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.,” (Matthew 8:17). “By whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

The prayer that begins with petition and ends with Praise is the Prayer of Faith. Anything less is unbelief. For if we really believe God’s Word and His promises, and have asked for the promised blessing according to His Word and Will, and in the Mighty Name of Jesus, we cannot but know He will send the answer.

And if we know the Answer is on the way, we cannot but praise Him for it and shout out the Victory while we await its coming!

“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (1 John 5:14, 15).

Mittie Watters, our deaf friend, and the friend of many, was once facing death with a split heart valve and a paralyzed left arm. Doctors had given her only a short time to live. She went to a man of God for prayer. When she had finished pouring out her “tale of woe” he, by the Spirit, commanded: “In everything give thanks” (1 Thes. 5:18). So, “throw up your hands and praise the Lord!”

A few days later, as she obeyed (Acts 2:38), she came up out of the baptismal waters praising the Lord with BOTH arms in the air! She was given a vision of Jesus, healed, and later filled with the precious Holy Spirit! That has been some thirty years ago. Since that time she has given herself unstintingly to telling others less fortunate about “my Jesus” and what He can do for those in trouble or in need.

A minister of mine, W.S. Guild, forty years or more ago was dying of tuberculosis. He was so weak that he could not dress himself. He was taken to a Full Gospel Tabernacle and prayed for, but the next day he was worse. Friends and relatives urged him to let them take him to the hospital. He said, “NO! Take me back to that Tabernacle!”

That night he was barely able to sit up on one of the benches. During the Testimony Time he stood up and said by faith, “I thank God for healing me of TB!” Then he sank back on to the bench

From that night on he gained a pound every day in weight. In three months he was perfectly well. Soon he was preaching this glorious gospel (great news) that God does heal the sick and that God honors those who praise Him. After forty years he is still preaching in the Name and strength of Jesus, still Praising God for the Victory that comes from Him.

“Rejoice forever. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

EAGLES WINGS

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40: 31).

The eagle has been called King of the air. His domain is high above the earth. He builds his home in the rocky mountain peaks. He doesn't fly with flapping wings like other birds, With outspread wings he soars, high up in space, or swoops down to earth in search of prey, then soars away to his mountain home.

In like manner “Eagles of the Lord” live above the people of the world, up where the air is purer, up where the view is broader, up on the mountain heights.

Eagles, unlike some birds of prey, eat only freshly killed meat. They swoop down on a flock of sheep, snatch up a young lamb in their fierce claws, and fly away to share this fresh meat with the young eaglets in the mountain nest.

Christian eagles likewise, thrive on living food, the flesh and blood of the Lamb of God. Jesus said, “Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you” (John 6:53). The Psalmist said, “Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles” (Psalm 103:5).

Eagles of the Lord have two powerful wings. Many Christians use only one wing and wonder why they do not make much spiritual progress. The one wing they use is prayer. It is a very necessary wing, if we would rise up and Victoriously. But used alone it is not enough to overcome the world, the flesh AND the devil!

Jesus said, “Men ought always to pray and not to faint.” (Luke 18:1). Paul said, “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thes. 5:17). That we must do. But we are still using only one wing. Many Christians Pray, and Pray, but seldom receive the answer to their cries. They “Pray in circles” as a bird would fly if using only one wing. What is the other wing that Eagles of the Lord use in order to soar up above the sordid things of the world and live on the mountain top?

That second wing is PRAISE. Praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God for His many and wonderful blessings. None of us appreciate as we should the many, many wonderful and lovely blessings our Heavenly Father does for us every single day! We take too many things for granted. Or take credit for them ourselves.

Not one of us could live on moment without God. The air we breathe is loaned to us by His goodness. The food we eat comes from His bounty. The earth, that grows the food, was made by Him. The sunshine, the rain, the growing seed, all come from Him. The clothes, the homes, the furniture, the cars were all made possible by His generous and tender love for all mankind. None of us know whether we will be here tomorrow. Each of us is but a heartbeat from eternity. Everything is in His wonderful hands; yet we take these things for granted; yes, we even complain if the weather is bad or we do not have all we would like to have.

God's Word says, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving; and into his courts with praises: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name." (Psalm 100:4). "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad" (Matthew 5:12).

Praise and thanksgiving, gratitude and appreciation, are a sweet savour in the nostrils of God. Thanksgiving is an indication of faith. When someone promises you a gift or a dinner, a job or a raise, you immediately say, "Thank you!", though you have not yet received anything except a promise, Do we trust men more than we trust God and His promises?

Overcoming Christians are not only praying Christians. Eagles of the lord have learned how to use this second Wing and so to rise to greater heights than the average Christian knows.

"They shall mount up with wings as Eagles of the lord! Not as birds, though they also have two wings, but as EAGLES. Birds flap their wings and fly before the storm. Eagles soar triumphantly ABOVE the storm. We have an eyewitness account of how an eagle meets an approaching storm, such as often strike in India. While the smaller birds were flapping their way to some shelter, the majestic eagle flew to the highest branch on a nearby tree. There he faced the coming storm, lifted his great wings at the proper angle and calmly waited for the fury of the storm to hit him.

The eagle knows instinctively what it took men centuries to learn: the exact angle for a wing to meet the wind to bear airplane or glider or eagle into the sky. As the wind struck the eagle's upturned wings he was blown almost straight up—up above the storm—and he soared off above the clouds to his mountain home.

Had his wings been slanted "down," the storm would have beaten him down to earth. But slanted UP, the carried him to Victory. So, with the Christian, when he sees the storms of life approaching, he can flap, flap," pray, pray and get little help. If his wings are "down" the storms will strike him down to defeat.

Have you found it hard to rise above the fears and doubts of this everyday world in which we live? Do you seem to be going around in circles as you pray and pray and wonder why your prayers aren't answered? Get up that second wing, the wing of Praise. Lift them both Heavenward, face the approaching storm. Let it blow you up, up above the storm and strife, until you experience the miracle that Christ came to give you, Victory over every foe, and you soar in the blue skies and rest on the mountain top with God, an Eagle of the lord!

"One ship drives east and another drives west,
With the selfsame winds that blow.
"Tis the set of the sails,
And not the gales,
Which tells us the way to go."
-Ella Wheeler Wilcox-

And we know that all things work together for good to them that Love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

PRAISE IS VICTORY

Thanks be to God, which giveth us the Victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Praise is more powerful than prayer. Praise without prayer might be presumption. But prayer without praise is unbelief. Praise anticipates the victory. Praise acknowledges that the answer is on its way. Praise testifies that God is more powerful than the devil or any situation the devil can bring upon us. Praise witnesses to the goodness and mercy and wisdom of God.

Praise is the “Hymn of Committal”. Praise proclaims that the burden is not longer on our shoulders, but on the Lord. Praise testifies that no matter what the outcome, we will be “glad and will rejoice.”

Praise demonstrates the relief of a small child, faced with danger, when his father appears on the scene to take over in the child’s behalf. Praise is the release that comes when committal is made to a “higher power.” Praise is the joyful acclaim that God is on His throne and all is well.

Praise is the most powerful “prayer of faith.” Praise says, “It is done! Hallelujah!”

Praise shouts, “My worries are over, my struggling is ended. God has taken over. The battle is now His concern, not mine. I am free to stand still, to cease to fight, to see the salvation of the Lord!”

Praise shouts, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.” “I will yet come forth as gold.” “In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”

Praise confesses, “I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me; and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20.)

Praise shouts, “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4).

Praise proclaims, “And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony” (Rev. 12:11).

Prayer frightens the devil. Praise puts him to route.

Prayer makes the devil tremble. Praise causes him to flee.

Prayer begs God. Praise thanks Him in advance. “Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me . . . Lazarus, come forth” (John 11:41, 43).

Prayer brings our petition to God. Praise takes home the answer.

Prayer says, “Please.” Praise says, “Thank you.”

Prayer changes things. Praise shouts down the walls so we can take the city. (Josh. 6:20)

Prayer is “weeping may endure for a night.” Praise is, “Joy cometh in the morning” (Ps. 30:5).

Prayer is an “eagle of the Lord” trying to fly with only one wing. Praise is the “king of the air” soaring high above the storm on two raised wings.

Pray – yes. Pray much, pray “without ceasing.” But don’t forget to praise God for the promised answer.

Prayer is wondering “if it will come to pass.” Praise is “knowing it is done.”

God likes to see His children pray. But He rejoices to hear them praising Him for the expected answer.

Prayer may move mountains. Praise moves God so that He cannot refrain from rejoicing with His praising children in their victory.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

“Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord” (Ps. 150:6).

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise” (Ps. 100:4).

“Praise ye the Lord” (Ps. 150:6).

(A booklet written by J.A. Dennis many years ago who asked only that his material be distributed prayerfully for God's glory and the blessing of His people.)