

Objective: to enable every believer to live the supernatural lifestyle that God intended.

05 November 2019
NLBC a.m.

The Power of Praise to Magnify God

2 Chron. 20:1-25; Ps. 34:3, 4 NKJV; Ps. 69:30 NKJV; Luke 1:46 NKJV
Acts 10:46 NKJV

Introduction

Every believer faces circumstances in life that are humanly impossible to change or fix. In these circumstances, he/she choose to depend on God to do what humanity cannot achieve or they lose out depending on themselves. There are no other options. God desires to teach us His ways so that we can **magnify** His operation in the middle of our circumstances. God is everywhere all the time. However, He is sometimes waiting for us to cooperate with Him in order to be prompted to move in our behalf. He has set Himself to work *with* us as co-labourers. In so doing we share in the miracle-producing process. Isa. 26:12. We are not simply watchers of the Great Divine.

What Do We Do in The Time of Great Hardship?

The Bible is full of God teaching His people *how* to live, not simply the 'do's and don'ts' of life. 1 Chron. 20 is a great lesson to instruct us in **how** to face and respond to the 'deep ditches' and 'high mountains' of our life's journey. It is a clear and distinctive path that comes from God, not human logic or some earth-devised approach. Let us capture some of these powerful truths from the story:

- God's people sought Him and followed Him – 1 Chron. 19:3, 4 They desired to serve the Lord...

- Trouble came – 2 Chron. 20:1-2; Mt. 8:24; Mt. 7:25 (storms come to every home). This threat of extinction was not tentative or uncertain. It was about to happen. The enemies were fifteen hours away.
 - The news came from men – often the message of difficulty or **threat**, comes from men, with their perspective or opinion about what it ultimately means—just like the news broadcasts of our time.
- Jehoshaphat was afraid – But he chose to channel those thoughts and emotions into *seeking the Lord* – vs. 3. The Hebrew translation of this passage means, “to turn your attention to, to resolve, or to set your face to.” As the threat was imminent, he had no time to allow himself to sink in the mire of fear, despair, and hopelessness. **Immediately**, we choose to turn our thoughts to the Lord in prayer, in faith, and focus only on Him.
- He proclaimed a fast – fasting helps us to **focus** on Him and is a means of humbling ourselves before God, which is the ground of receiving grace. Ezra 8:21; James 4:6. **Favour** is released to those who prepare their hearts to receive it in humility. 2 Cor. 6:2 NIV.
- God’s people came from everywhere to one location—there was **unity** in the seeking of the Lord in fasting and prayer and faith. No one seeks to be a ‘rider,’ on other people’s faith and effort. Vs. 4, 13. Even the next generation were taught to pursue God in this way from the earliest age.
- Jehoshaphat prayed a prayer that is a model for us. Its substance, forever recorded, gives us insight.

- God rules over all the kingdoms of the nations Vs. 6
- Absolute power is in His hand—ready to be dispense Vs. 6
- No other earthly power can withstand the power of God Vs. 6
- We remind God of His previous promises vs. 7,8, 11
- We will **'stand in your presence'** (in the middle of distress or bad news), we **choose** a specific *location*—we bring Heaven and earth into connection and alignment by 'standing or abiding in His Presence – today we will do this. Persecution, punishment, sickness or deprivation will all bow to our prayer to the Lord as we **stand in His Presence**. Vs. 9
- We stand in His Name—that is in His authority, not our weakness or limitation - vs. 9 He holds the 'key of our deliverance!'
- We declare that He hears us and saves us 'in our stuff' Vs. 9; 1 John 5:14, 15
- We acknowledge our helplessness without His help. Vs. 12; John 15:5 "...without me you can do nothing..." but, "I can do all things **through** Christ." Phillip. 4:13. We learn to hold both of these seemingly contradictory positions in balance. Our flesh is weak, but in Christ we are made strong to the task, more-than-conquerors.
- "Our **eyes** are upon you." We re-orient our souls, our perspective and our speech, as we pray in this manner. Our souls require constant re-orientation. Vs. 12

- We take up the ‘prophetic message’ that we have heard. Vs. 14. Get back to the previous words God has spoken to you personally and corporately. Vs. 20. God has given us “**that building!**”
- We are **commanded** to NOT be afraid or discouraged. Fear, doubt and discouragement are illegal—not allowed and not to be permitted in our inner life. Vs. 15, 17
- We deliberately and decisively move into a *place of rest*, declaring that the ‘battle is the Lord’s!’ Vs. 15
- We set ourselves to ‘**go against**’ what comes against us. Vs. 16, 17 – we choose not to submit to what is humanly declared, scientifically validated, or symptomatically appearing in our circumstances
- We take up a position and we **stand firm** – we don’t take a faith stance and then let go of it! We persevere unto victory! Your inner life must be maintained by the Word and your **continual** decisive declaration! Vs. 17.
- We **declare** our victory **before** we see it manifested! Vs. 17 We do not take a ‘wait and see’ stance. Because we believe, we can speak what is ours **before** it is manifested! Mark 11:23, 24.
- Worshipping God Almighty is an appropriate response – Vs. 18 – It signals Heaven to release the salvation-and-miracle-producing angels!
- Exuberant, faith-filled, joy-filled praise is an appropriate response – vs. 19, 21, 22. We don’t ‘sing the blues,’ pray our

complaints, start pre-mourning, or sink in **passive silence**, acquiescing or giving over to circumstantial impossibility. We rejoice **over** our enemies. Vs. 27.

- We are **commanded** to act inwardly and outwardly in **faith**. Vs. 20
- We are faithful to give thanks, praise, and celebrate our victory, acknowledging where it came from. Vs. 26, 27, 28
- We acknowledge that God has pre-prepared our victory before time...He saw this 'thing' before time and already decided to give us the victory, sealed it with the provision of the Cross and resurrection and His precious blood. John 19:30; 1 Cor. 15:57, 58; 1 John 5:4.

Application

Today we worship, we celebrate in praise and we give thanks for the victory God has given. In this season, we **choose** to place our lives, our souls, and our circumstances **before** Him.

This week, take some time in your home, with your family, to sing, rejoice, and declare as specifically as you can, the promises, and the victories God has given in the past.

Take time to **declare** the victory in every area of stuff that 'needs fixing.'