

November 26, 2017

Thankfulness Brings Miracles

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We received a review of the previous teachings that we have had from the book of Habakkuk regarding the vision that he had received, after asking the Lord why the children of Israel were in the situation that was all around them, they had no direction in life, they had lost their hope and vision for the future. Habakkuk had been told that they needed to write down the vision in order that it could be read and there was an appointed time for the vision to come to pass.

Hab 2:2-4 "And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. 4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith" KJV

We as believers have the choice to keep the appointment that will bring about the manifestation of the vision or dream, but it is our choice as to whether we keep it or not.

Isa 46:10 "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" KJV

Rom 4:17 "(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were." KJV

2 Cor 4:13 "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;" KJV

The principles of God, the way that God thinks, or the way God does things. He declares the end in the beginning, calls those things that are not as though they are, we have believed and have spoken of those things. God declares how something is going to turn out before it is even started. God has declared our outcome at the beginning and is not bothered by any circumstances that may try to change that outcome. We are more than conquerors, no weapon formed against us may prosper. We will have a favorable outcome.

Gratefulness and thankfulness are the topics for today's teaching. We have just finished having the Thanksgiving season, being reminded of what the early settlers

had to face and yet they came through with a spirit of thanksgiving. Thankful for what God had done for them even though many had died.

The principle that we need to maintain is a grateful and thankful heart in the midst of adversity, then we are able to take control of those adverse circumstances. However, if we begin to whine and complain or pout, circumstances will take control of us, it is just a biblical principle. It takes faith to maintain a grateful heart and as we do this it attracts the favor of God and man, released to us. Thankfulness and gratefulness always opens the door to favor, murmuring and complaining or a pouting heart or spirit, only opens the wrong door inviting more challenges and problems and the more talking about the problem the greater the problem becomes.

Psa 34:1-4 "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My 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. 4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." KJV

These words are from David when he was going through a difficult time in his life, he was being pursued by Saul who was wanting to kill him. He was in enemy territory and maybe things would not go so good for him. His answer was to bless the Lord and praise Him, knowing that when he sought the Lord, that he was heard and God delivered him. He refused to talk about the bad things that he was enduring, he knew that he had been anointed to be the future king of Israel.

What is the one thing that we as believers could do to turn things around for us and open the channel that is flowing from heaven to us? We could learn to have the trait of thankfulness, thanking God for all the many things that He has given us, it changes our focus, it will help us as we plan our upcoming day, as we begin to give thanks to God. As we do this we are sowing to our future, praise stills the voice of the enemy and God inhabits the voice of the praiser of gratefulness of His people, stop the murmuring and complaining. God understands what we are going through, thanking Him that He has never forsaken us, that He empowers us to overcome all the situations that we are being faced with, for the divine wisdom that He has given to us and supernatural insight of what our jobs are in life. Getting into the habit of thanking and praising Him for all the blessings that He has bestowed on us and how much He loves us.

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

These are only a few of the benefits of the favor of God that we receive from blessing and praising Him. As we read this list, we realize how much we have to be

grateful for and to be thankful for.

Phil 4:6-7 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." KJV

This scripture has been written for the believers telling them how they should be bringing all their problems to Him in prayer but to not forget giving thanks once those petitions had been made, in doing so they would have the peace that comes from God and would get results. Circumstances will have control over us when we have wrong attitudes, worries, complaining or griping or pouting, but if we can learn to come in prayer and end our prayers with thanksgiving and gratefulness, we will take control of the adversity which was designed by the enemy to defeat us, because there isn't anything that can hold us down.

An example was given regarding a young evangelist during the 20's or 30's, who was married with a young family, found out that he had TB. He had become so weak that he was unable to continue preaching and he and his family moved in with the folks on a farm. He was bedridden, but he began to reach out to God regarding his healing, looking out across the pasture, seeing a group of trees in the distance, said that he was going to go out there and stay there until he was either healed or he died. Making his way out, taking every ounce of energy that he had, he leaned back and began to praise the Lord, at first it was hard to do not having much strength, but after awhile the praise became to come easier and louder and he could be heard a mile away praising the Lord. Over the years he had requested prayer from those people who he had been ministering to in different churches, and as he began to praise the Lord, he realized that he had been asking for them to pray but had never requested that they praise the Lord for the healing. After he was healed he continued preaching telling all of the miracle that he had received and how important was not only prayer but the thanksgiving that followed.

The challenge is that in the midst of the bad circumstances we must by faith begin to praise not acting by our emotions but by faith and begin thanking the Lord for the outcome.

Acts 16:22-25 "And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. 23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: 24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. 25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." KJV

This scripture is an example of the power of praise that comes about even though the circumstances around are not the best. Paul and Silas had been commanded not to preach about Jesus, they had prayed for a young woman controlled by a demonic spirit and when she was delivered, they found themselves in trouble with her

keepers, being turned over to the authorities, they were beaten and placed in prison, but at midnight as they began to pray and sing praises, they were released and were able to minister to those in the jail with them. They knew God and His ways, gratitude opens the windows of heaven.

Many times when we find ourselves in challenging times, we find that it is hard to open our mouths and say anything at all, but that is the time when those things being said, coming from our mouths should be praise and thanksgiving to God, knowing that He sees the end from the beginning.

Testimony was given of an evangelist who received word that his wife had been killed in a car wreck, he began to question God as why, after all he was doing the Lords work, why wasn't God taking care of his family? It was hard for him to even pray about the situation, he became very bitter and was in depression, resentful, unforgiving and in grief because of the situation, but an older minister who he knew quite well began to speak words of encouragement and healing to him. The older man began to explain that in order for him to get over his bad feelings, that he must begin to praise the Lord and thank Him in order for his healing and deliverance to come, it took a while but as he continued to worship the Lord, his spirit began to lift and he came out of the emotions that he had been having. He yielded to what the praise was doing, commanding those bad feelings to go, speaking to each of those negative feelings, things began to change after he changed his attitude through praise and worship, he continued to do this for a season and enjoyed the freedom that he had received.

Matt 15:22-28 "And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." KJV

This is a woman who did not have a covenant with God, she is not a Jew, was considered a "dog", she has things working against her, her daughter is demon possessed, she has heard about the miracles of Jesus and she has come to him. She was a bother to all those around and they wanted her to leave their presence, but she was determined to have Him hear her out even after He had not answered her request. Jesus told her that He was called to minister to the lost sheep of Israel, but she began to worship Him asking for His help and responded to His comment regarding the crumbs that fall from the masters table that surely the dogs could eat those crumbs, at which time He recognized her faith and answered her because of

that great faith, her daughter was healed. She refused to let a bad attitude from those around her change her request. When praise and worship are put into motion, it opens the windows of heaven or the heart of Jesus, He bestowed compassion on her behalf. What turned her situation around even though she was turned down by his disciples? She kept her focus on the thing that she was wanting, she would not take no for an answer. She knew that if she kept her switch of faith turned on through praise and worship, that Jesus would grant her request.

Heb 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**" KJV

Learn to develop the attitude of thankfulness, keeping the channel open to receive the blessings from God, learning how to take control of circumstances which will keep the bad circumstances from taking control of us. Some breakthroughs will only come as we begin developing an attitude of gratefulness. Gratefulness will take control of adverse situations but selfishness will cause problems if we are only consumed with ourselves. Start becoming grateful, grow and develop being grateful. When we reach the place that we are really wanting something from God and are desperate to receive, we must stay focused, committed to the situation, asking in faith knowing that God cares for us, we will have what we are asking for. He is a rewarder of them that diligently (a firm steady effort to accomplish what is undertaken) seek him. Keeping the switch of faith turned on through praise and worship, God will reward us.

God never told us that it would be easy to receive in the natural, but if we can keep our praise and worship and gratitude operating, it will open the doors for the supernatural and miraculous, you will see God move on your behalf like never before, He will pass over the murmurs and complainers in order to get to you because it takes faith to worship or have an attitude of gratitude in the midst of an opposing forces, God is for us and not against us.