

December 3, 2017

## Thanksgiving - Praise - Worship #2

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

When we learn how to praise and worship, we take control over adverse circumstances, if we don't know how to be thankful in the midst of adversity then circumstances will continue to manipulate or control us, it is important that we learn how to worship and praise God. There will be seasons in our lives when we will go through challenging times, we have to learn the secret of going through those times with praise and worship in the midst of that adversity and begin to control circumstances even though there may not be any change, we can strip them of their power to harm or hurt us or pull us down in our emotions.

1 Peter 1:6-7 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" KJV

Peter is encouraging the believers what they have in the Lord and yet tells them that there will be seasons in their lives that difficulties will arise, a trying of their faith and they need to learn how to rejoice during these seasons, for they are only for a short period of time. When we learn how to respond to those temptations and quit murmuring and complaining, because we have learned scripturally by entering into praise and worship, it opens the door for favor to come to us, the favor of God and man, an good attitude or gratitude keeps the channel open to us, regardless of what is going on around us. Murmuring and complaining only opens up the doors for demonic forces to come.

Psa 34:1-2 "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." KJV

David has written this Psalm during a dangerous time of his life, some want to kill him and some were afraid of him. He realizes that maybe he should be going someplace else and getting away from everyone, he even acted like he was mad and they ask him to leave their country. His confession was that praise would be in his mouth at all times, he begins to take control of the adverse circumstances around him, begins to strip the circumstances through praise and worship.

We are all going to have opportunities when things don't work out like we think they should, people may be saying things about us or they misunderstand us, we think that God never answers our prayers, this is the season that we learn how to worship Him in adversity. In order to be able to worship God in adversity, we must be convinced of the integrity of God and know that God is for us and He wants to bring deliverance to us. Praise and worship has to be birthed from an attitude of faith, because faith always sees the answer and faith is always now, hope is always in the future. We take hope for things that we want to happen and we become convinced what the word of God teaches us and we turn them into reality. We begin to give thanksgiving like they have already happened when we are in faith.

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

It is in the attitude of praise and worship, that David does not want to forget all the \*benefits the Lord has for him. When are we reminded about all His benefits? not while we are murmuring or complaining but when we are worshipping and praising the Lord, when we have a heart or attitude of thanksgiving. Praise and worship opens the doors of heaven in order for us to receive the favor of God and man. In the spirit realm when we murmur or complain it acts the opposite, it only attracts the demonic spirits and we will receive nothing. However, whenever we begin to praise and worship, the angelic forces in the spirit realm, hear us and come to our aid to deliver us or give us whatever we have need of, putting us in a secret place where the enemy can do nothing.

A testimony was shared regarding praise and worship because of an accident with the airplane he had. The circumstances that were being faced could have been very expensive, but because of the attitude of praise that was being displayed, everything that was needed was taken care of and there was very little expense that had to be put out. Being put into remembrance of God's word and reminding Him of His promise, the outcome was entirely opposite of what it would have been if murmuring and complaining had been voiced.

It is not always the easiest thing to do in bad circumstances, but as praise and worship are entered into, it becomes easier and the results are outstanding. Being thankful everyday, we find the challenges are only for a season.

Paul tells us to not worry, don't be anxious or uptight, but in everything with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving make your requests known to God. This is a principle of faith and it will only be for a season.

Phil 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known unto God." KJV

Jonah as a prophet of God was reliable, but we find that he was not always willing to do what God told him. God had told him to go to Nineveh because the people there were so evil and preach to them, but he knew that if he went to the people in Nineveh and told them what God had said, that destruction was coming to them, they would repent and God wouldn't destroy the city and he would not look so good, so he decided to go to Tarshish, in the opposite direction, boarded a ship and was taking a trip, but a terrible storm came up and threatened to cause the ship to sink and all aboard would perish. The men on the boat even though they knew nothing of God, realized that something was causing the events to happen, Jonah spoke up and told them that because of his disobedience it was his fault, he told them to throw him overboard, which they did and the storm stopped. God had prepared a large fish to swallow him and for three days and nights, Jonah was in the belly of the fish.

Jonah 1:16-17 "Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows. 17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." KJV

Jonah 2:7-10 "When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. 8 They that observe lying \*vanities forsake their own mercy. 9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord. 10 And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." KJV

\*vanities means something that is transitory, something that is subject to change

While inside the fish, Jonah realized that he couldn't focus on the condition around him, but he began to remember the Lord, focusing on Him, that He was merciful and Jonah began to pray and praise the Lord, asking forgiveness for his disobedience. God gave him a second chance. True faith always sees the answer. God had prepared a place for Jonah to make things right.

It is easy to praise when things are going our way, but a sacrifice to give voice to thanksgiving when circumstances are hard. It is a sacrifice well pleasing to God when we are able to praise Him during bad times. If we will rejoice and make things right when God gives us the chance to be obedient God will bring deliverance to us. God is in control but it is our choice how and what we do with that second chance.

After Jonah was delivered from the belly of the fish, God told him to go a second time to Nineveh and preach which Jonah was obedient to do. His deliverance came through the sacrifice of worship and praise.

Jonah 3:1-3 "And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, 2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. 3 So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey." KJV

Sacrifice of praise and worship disarms circumstances of their power to hold or hurt us. As we become worshippers it opens the door of Gods grace and deliverance to come to us.