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May 2021 "WORSHIP 3: A MIGHTY WEAPON"

Dear Friends,

I am continuing in this teaching about worship. This month is part three; previous lessons are available.

To briefly review from last month, I shared how God inhabits our praises.

But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. (Psalm 22:3)

¹And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. ²Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. ³Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. ⁴And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. ⁶Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee. (Isaiah 12:1-6)

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. (Zechariah 2:10)

Since God inhabits our praises, He brings with Him everything He has made available to us: healing, peace, joy, deliverance, and more. It's as though our worship opens a door in the spirit for God to move in. Therefore, giving Him praise and worship, both privately and in a congregational setting, is extremely important. Not only does God inhabit our praises, He has also anointed it to be one of the most critical and powerful spiritual weapons at our disposal. Here are some of the lyrics to "Surrounded (Fight My Battles)", a newer song many churches sing today that emphasizes this feature of worship.:

**In the valley I know that You're with me
Surely Your goodness and Your mercy follow me
My weapons are praise and thanksgiving
This is how I fight my battles**

**I believe You've overcome
And I will lift my song of praise for what You've done**

**This is how I fight my battles
This is how I fight my battles
This is how I fight my battles
This is how**

Though it sounds so simple and too good to be true, when we praise God, He gets involved in our struggles and actually helps us do warfare against forces coming against us. One of the greatest examples of this is found in the twentieth chapter of Second Chronicles. In this story, the armies of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir had formed an alliance to attack and conquer the Jewish people in the land of Judah. King Jehoshaphat knew that his army was not powerful enough to wage successful warfare against such overwhelming forces. So, he and the people of Judah sought God with prayer and fasting. Then, God moved on Mattaniah, a Levite who was a son of Asaph (a worship leader), to deliver a prophetic word of victory,

¹⁵And he said, Hearken 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. ¹⁶To morrow 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. ¹⁷Ye 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: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you. (2 Chronicles 20:15-17)

The next day, on the strength and encouragement of that promise from God, Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah prepared to go forth and meet the invading enemy armies. Here is what happened:

²⁰And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, 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. ²¹And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

²²And 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. ²³For 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.

²⁴And 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. ²⁵And 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 20:20-25)

Notice that the singers went *before* the army. Also, pay close attention to the fact that it was only *after* they began to praise the Lord that He set ambushments against the invaders. The image I have of this is that when the people began praising, God inhabited their praise with His glory and presence. His glory went forth from the singers so powerfully that it reached the camp of the adversary. The hearts and minds of the enemy soldiers were so corrupt that the purity and

holiness of God's glory created an atmosphere of confusion. The result was that they saw each other as a threat and fought among themselves until they were all dead. This fits in perfectly with a vision I had in one of our church services.

During our praise and worship one Sunday morning, I looked up and the roof of our church disappeared. As our congregation was worshipping, a large, brilliant shaft of light – shining like the noon day sun – began to rise from our sanctuary toward the sky. At the same time, an identical shaft of glory began descending from Heaven. They met about 200 feet above the church. When they did, there was an explosion that resembled a video of a nuclear bomb being detonated. I watched as every demon in the neighboring area around the church was driven miles away by the immeasurable power of the resulting shock wave. Those demons were powerless against that blast of glory; there was absolutely *nothing* they could do to keep from being driven away.

When it comes to God making a direct connection between worship and spiritual warfare, there is no better passage than Psalm 149,

¹Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. ²Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. ³Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. ⁴For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. ⁵Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. ⁶Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; ⁷To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; ⁸To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; ⁹To execute upon them the judgment written: this honor have all his saints. Praise ye the Lord. (Psalm 149:1-9)

The first five verses in this passage deal specifically with praising God. In fact, verses 1-3 and 5-6 are instructions from God that we should praise Him, as well as how we are to praise Him. Then, in verse six God makes a specific connection between praise and warfare. Verses 7-9 describe this warfare, and it appears that it is strictly related to fighting natural enemies.

However, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 tells us we do not war after the flesh, and that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, or of natural origin. This indicates spiritual warfare, which is revealed in Ephesians 6:12 where God explains that our battles are against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places. Thus, the image presented in Psalm 149 is this: When we open our mouths and begin to praise and worship God, we are engaging Satan's armies in battle, executing vengeance against them, punishing them, binding them, and executing judgment upon them; when we do this as a congregation we become like Jehoshaphat's army, winning major victories and shutting down the enemy's advances...and all we have to do is stand still, praise God, and see the salvation of the Lord! Psalm 149:9 says God has bestowed this honor and privilege to all His children.

Second Chronicles 20:25 tells us that when Jehoshaphat's army arrived at the battlefield, ***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.*** Prophetically, the same thing is true for us today. Though we do not literally kill demons with our worship, we disrupt their plans, create confusion in their

midst, and drive them away. Yes, it is true that this could release natural blessings into our lives, but the greatest treasures to be gained are the souls of the lost and backslidden. By simply praising and worshiping God for the lost and backslidden in our cities to be born again and restored unto Him, we can bind the devils and set the captives free. We talk much about interceding in prayer for the lost, even having special prayer meetings on their behalf. But what if we also started having worship meetings for the lost and backslidden?

Think about what happened in Acts chapter 16. Because they were preaching the gospel and moving in the power of the Holy Spirit, Paul and Silas were arrested, severely beaten, then locked up and shackled in prison. But instead of complaining, they began to worship.

²⁵And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. ²⁶And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. (Acts 16:25-26)

Not only did their prayers and worship set them free, but the shackles of every prisoner fell off and all their prison doors were opened! Do you honestly not think God is not sending us a message with that story? I'm telling you, praise and worship are vital components of evangelism **AND THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED FOR TRUE REVIVAL!**

At the end of this letter, I have included a very powerful prophecy about worship that God gave during a recent Sunday morning service at the Family Prayer Center of Immokalee, Florida (Bronc Flint, Pastor). I am also offering a CD of a sermon on worship that you can request by using the form on the next page. Remember, praise and worship are methods of spiritual warfare, both privately and in a corporate setting. God has anointed it for our benefit, and there is nothing Satan or any demon can do to render it powerless. Victory lives in praise and worship!

In His Grace,

Jim

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DO NOT MISS WORSHIP (Prophecy)

Know this, says the Spirit of Grace, that the most important part of every service, now or what will be for the future, is the worship, says the Spirit of the Lord. For My worshippers set the tone and bring into effect My Spirit to do the things that I desire to do. And yes, for the one that would say, "Yes, but the Word. You've exalted Your Word above Your Name. What about the Word?" My Word, which is exalted above My Name, will be misappropriated in the House and among the hearers. Even if an anointed vessel brings it, it will not have the impact unless My Spirit is there to bring it forth, says the Spirit of Grace. So if you miss any part of any service, now or in the future, do not miss worship. I would have you miss any part rather than the presence of My Spirit, says the Spirit of Grace. For as My presence rests upon you, you will be healed. As My presence rests upon you, you will be prepared to hear My Word, which will in effect bring forth great change to your life, says the Spirit of the Lord. But where there is dry ground, the seed will not grow. This is why I continually petition you to come into My presence.

Blatant hearts who hear My Word anesthetically and just go forward never allow My seed to grow in them.

Your children will not remember the sermons that will be preached, nor the lessons that will be taught, but they will remember the presence of God even when they cannot explain it. Allow your children to sit in My presence. Allow yourself. If you miss any part of any service, if you zone out or go someplace, do not miss worship! says the Spirit of the Lord. Do not miss intimacy! It is the key – it is the key that unlocks My Spirit to do more for you than you can imagine, says the Spirit of the Lord. Do not let others create an atmosphere for you. Create your own atmosphere. Let your heart worship Me in earnest, in spirit and in truth. Do not even be concerned about the wee ones, the little ones. For what you see today as a necessity for My Spirit to come will change in the days ahead. For as the masses come, and the noise level is exalted to other levels because of just people, know this, that I will come in the midst of the noise. I will come in the midst of the God-given chaos.

Your vision for Revival has only been partially right. Even for your pastor, it's only been partially right. Know this, that in the days ahead, I will take this place and turn it upside down, says the Spirit of the Lord. And do not think, says the Spirit of the Lord, that this man prophesies out of his own spirit. For truly, I will take the things that you see now as fit and proper and turn them upside down and right side out. But you will love it. You will come to love it. To start with, it will be a bitter taste to you because you'll not be used to it and it'll not be convenient for you. But thus says the Lord, convenience for your life is not what I'm concerned about. I'm not concerned about you being able to leave here at a convenient hour, or to go from here at a convenient hour, or come at a convenient hour. My time schedule is not on your time schedule. For the masses are waiting to be birthed into My Kingdom, says the Lord. And I have here high priests and kings who will birth this in the days ahead and are birthing it now, says the Spirit of the Lord. Bring forth the sheaves unto Me. Bring them forth as you are now in prayer, but in the days ahead, physically bring them to this House, says the Spirit of Grace.

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☐ Please send me a CD of the sermon, *Prayer and Praise: Critical Keys to Revival*.

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