**PRAYER AND PRAISE BRINGS**

**DELIVERANCE!**

**Psalms 50:23** – Whoso offereth Praise Glorifieth Me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I show the Salvation of God.

 Do you want to make God happy? Do you really want to get His attention and please Him? Do you want Him to move for you in a miraculous way? Then Praise Him! Praise will do for you what Prayer alone can’t do. Isn’t it amazing that the Psalmist David said – Evening, and morning, and noon, will I Pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice - **Ps. 55:17.** But when it came to Praise, he said – Seven times a day do I Praise thee - **Ps. 119:164.** More than double the amount of Prayer.

 Praise is a secret weapon in Gods arsenal! Did you know that Prayer and Praise always go together? When coupled together, they bring power for deliverance. Listen, Praise is the force that pushes your Prayer over the top. Prayer alone is not enough to bring victory. Hallelujah, Praise puts life in your Prayer! Praise joined with Prayer brings feeling and expectancy for God to move and answer, save, heal and deliver. Listen children, if only the Church could see the importance of this great proven fact! People do not realize that (Prayer) is the incense but (Praise) is the flame that lights it and causes it to ascend to the very throne of God! Do you really desire God to move and bless? Then Praise Him!

**Psalms 96:1** – Sing unto the Lord a New Song (A Fresh Song) **Vs. 2** – Bless His Name; shew forth His Salvation from day to day.

**I Thes. 5:16** – Rejoice evermore **Vs. 17** – Pray without ceasing

 Prayer and Praise so much goes together that if you had one without the other, it would be like a one-winged eagle, you’d never get off the ground. Prayer knocks on Heavens door but Praise opens the latch! Thank God, Prayer and Praise is as important to you as both wings of the mighty Eagle. They will take you above the storm clouds into the Heavenlies. Listen, you will never see a CSX TRAIN Engine carrying its freight on only one rail. It takes both to get the goods delivered!! I believe that when troubles come, we must use Prayer and a Song of Praise! When troubles and sorrow come, the Blessed Holy Spirit can help us sing them down in Praise. We must once again lift up our voice of Praise – this is what brought the early Church through her trials. Her persecutors could not hold her down!

 We all will have our times of trial when things go wrong. We go through seasons of testing. I remember the year of 1996, Mary (My Wife) and I went through a hard trial. If anything could go wrong, it went terribly wrong. We were waging war on different fronts. I fought and struggled and questioned. It was one hot and sticky

July evening out back of Moms house. I had my head down to the ground and was grumbling and saying – “why me? It’s not fair!” I remember my sweet Mother looked at me and said, “Son, whatever you do, keep singing and don’t lose your Song!” I have had many battles since then but have never forgotten her advice. Listen children, the day you quit singing – you’re gone! I have never yet seen anyone surrender who kept singing God’s praise! Don’t lose your song! There’s just something about singing, you may start out low in spirit and without feeling, but when you think about all the Lord has done, think about the words you are singing, then there is something that begins to transpire deep within your Heart. Did you know the indwelling Spirit of God that is within you hears you when you sing? This is when He works! He rises up within you and quickens, encourages and strengthens. He can’t bless you till you sing. Many people of the worldly crowd live to sing. It’s their entertainment and lively hood. But Gods Children Sing to Live! We sing to overcome! Why must we Sing Praise unto God? **Ps. 22:3** – O thou that inhabitest the Praises of Israel. Praise creates an atmosphere for the Lord to operate and move in. God comes down in the Praise when you Worship. His Presence dwells in your Praise child of God. It puts to flight your oppressing enemy. Can you imagine an army going to battle without weapons? Instead of guns they used their tongues! God put great power and emphasis in the mouth. Children, there is authority in the tongue. Life and death is in the power of the tongue. Hallelujah, it encourages, it uplifts and brings Hope! Oh the power of Words when sung or spoken!

**LET’S PUT THE PRAISERS IN FRONT AND WE WILL WIN!**

 Do you remember the story in **II Chronicles 20?** News came to King Jehoshaphat, king of Judah that the Moabites, Ammonites and a great multitude was coming against Jerusalem to battle. Notice the important steps taken for this impending battle that was on their doorsteps. There was no way to ignore it. They didn’t ask for it or didn’t do anything to deserve it – but it came anyway. Jehoshaphat feared because they were greatly outnumbered. **# 1 –** they Fasted. **#2** – they Prayed and sought the Lord. In your hand Lord, is power and might and none is able to withstand thee! The enemy has come to cast us out of our possession that you have given us to inherit. **#3** – They Stood and Waited before the Lord with their little ones - our eyes are upon thee O God, we don’t know what to do! Then came the Spirit of God in the midst of the congregation and spoke through Jahaziel saying – “Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the Battle is not yours, but God’s. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: Stand still and see the Salvation of the Lord with you! Tomorrow, go out against them, for the Lord will be with you.” They got up early the next morning and headed for the wilderness toward their enemies. This will be a day like no other and it will change the course of history. It will go down in the record books that a war was won without firing a shot. Listen, they Fasted, they Prayed, they Waited, but Victory did not come UNTIL they began to Praise the Lord!! Jehoshaphat cried out to his people – “Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established.” Jehoshphat appointed **SINGERS** that should Praise the Beauty of Holiness, as they went out before the army, and say, Praise the Lord; for His Mercy endureth forever. And when they began to SING and to PRAISE, the Lord set ambushments against the Ammonites, Moabites and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were **Smitten**!. There were dead bodies fallen to the earth everywhere and none of them escaped! The Bible said, then they returned with Jehoshaphat in the forefront going to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies. Listen children, when you have Prayed about it, Fasted and waited, start Singing and Praising the Lord, it will bring the final triumph. God moves in Praise. Your enemy fears when you Sing and Worship!

**WHAT TO DO WHEN TROUBLE COMES**

 What should we do when the devil comes against us and tries to stop us from serving God?

**Acts 16:16** – And it came to pass as we (Paul & Silas) went to prayer, a certain damsel (girl) possessed with a spirit of divination (fortune telling – in other words, people came to her to have their future of fortune told) Paul said, this damsel met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. **Vs. 17** – The same followed Paul and us, and cried saying, these men are the servants of the most High God, which shew unto us the way of Salvation. (Well, she was right. The devil inside her knew these Holy Ghost filled men). But notice **Vs. 18** – And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit (demon) I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. (Listen, people have speculated why that Paul waited for many days before he cast the spirit out. He for sure had the Power! But I believe Paul allowed her to continue to draw a crowd in. She was advertising for Paul and caused people to come, look and listen. It’s funny, the devil drew them in and Paul preached to them. But after a while, enough was enough and it was time for this devil to go and the girl to be set free!)

**Vs. 19** – And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas and drew them into the market place unto the rulers, **Vs.22** And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes and commanded to beat them. **Vs. 23** – And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely. **Vs. 24** – Who having received such a charge, thrust them into the Inner Prison, and made their feet fast (solidly secure) in the stocks. (Notice, they were put in solitary confinement, the roughest place! They weren’t allowed around other prisoners. Their Cell according to history was dark, damp, lonely, cold and rat infested where the most hardened criminals were kept.) If that wouldn’t take your song, what would? It sure looks like the least likely place for a revival and move of God, wouldn’t you say? You might say – “God can’t move in a place like that, what’s the use? It’s over!” There are many of Gods good people right now in a hard place. You may be in some spiritual, mental, physical or financial prison, a place of confinement and the devil says “you will never get out, you’ll never be free.” Just look at you, all your efforts are vain, what good has it done? Every day the lies of the enemy seem to make the bars thicker, the chains heavier and the shadows deepen in your soul. You may be like John the Baptist who questioned the reality of his experience. He had his days of revival! Oh those glory days when the anointing of God coursed through his soul as he preached repentance and witnessed the multitudes coming to him confessing their sins. No doubt words couldn’t describe the joy as he baptized the people in Jordon’s waters knowing they were saved and brought into the Kingdom of God. But now this blessed man who came in the Spirit and power of Elias stood staring through his prison bars at his disciples. He sent them to Jesus to ask – “are you really the one or do we look for another?” It was this John that baptized the Son of God and said to Jesus – “I have need to be baptized of you!” Also when John brought Jesus up out of the water he saw the heavens opened to Him and saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Him. John even heard the voice of God saying – “This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

 Listen children, you will have your quiet times when it seems you were pulled off to the side and set on a shelf. You will feel isolated and alone and wonder for awhile - where is that great fire that was burning? But remember, this was Johns great coronation day that had arrived. His work was finished and it was time to go home! I can see as Jesus told John’s disciples to go back and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. And this was enough for John to say to himself, thank God I wasn’t wrong after all. I had the right message and my labors were not in vain! I’m ready to go home now!

 But it was different for Paul and Silas. God wasn’t finished with them yet. There was more work to do and more souls to reach. I’m telling somebody out there, God is not finished with you yet! Rise up to the challenge and tell the devil your God is going to move and you’re coming out! You still have a desire in your heart and you’re not quitting! If you are a Child of God and serving Him, you are like these two great men of God, you’re right where the Lord can move. When you are at your lowest, and weakest and you feel restricted and confined by the enemy, there’s one thing left for you to do and it is the sure Key to Victory that will unlock your cell. Listen, Prayer and Praise comes before Victory! Notice the contrast between David and these two Apostles: David said to the Lord, **Ps. 142:7**- Bring my soul out of prison, that I may Praise thy name. (If you get me out of here Lord and out of this mess, I will Praise you! But not Paul and Silas.)

 **Acts 16:25** – And at midnight Paul and Silas Prayed and Sang Praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. (Get a picture of this: Their feet were spread apart in a painful position with iron shackles around their ankles that were attached with chains anchored in the mortar in the stone wall. It looked like they weren’t going anywhere. Physically bound – but the Word of God and the Holy Ghost in their Heart was not bound! Devil, you might have shackled us, but you haven’t gagged us – our Heart and Tongue is Free! Devil, you can do your worst, you can beat me, but you will never beat the Love of God out of me! You can hit me, and hit me hard but you can’t knock the Faith out of me! You can throw your lies, but they’ll never be enough to take away my vision and what God has done for me! Hallelujah!! You can surround me with bars, but just like David, God will compass me about with songs of deliverance. Paul and Silas knew the Old Testament well and were acquainted with the writings of the Psalmist David. It could have very well been that they were singing the 34th Psalm……..I will bless the Lord at all times, His Praise shall continually be in my mouth. This poor man cried and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The Angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him and delivereth them. The eyes of the Lord are upon the Righteous and He delivereth them out of all their troubles. Many are the afflictions of the Righteous but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. The Lord Redeemeth the soul of His servants and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate.

**Vs. 26** – And suddenly, there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every ones bands were loosed. Listen brothers and sisters, this is the greatest lesson you will ever find on the power of Prayer and Praise. Did you know that your Song can open others’ prison doors? Your Praise can set others free? It not only works for you, but it helps bring deliverance to others who are bound and afflicted. Whatever you do, don’t let the devil steal your song. Keep singing, it will take you through and bring Hope to others! **Vs. 27** – And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword and would have killed himself, supposing the prisoners had been fled. **Vs. 28** – But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying – do thyself no harm: for we are all here. (Oh the love for the souls of men. Don’t destroy yourself Mr. prison guard, God loves you too! I see two of Gods children standing there battered and bruised saying – we’re free, come on jailer, our God answers prayer and He loves you – you can be free from your sins prison!) **Vs. 29** – Then he (the guard) called for a light and sprang in and came trembling and fell down before Paul and Silas **Vs. 30** – And brought them out and said, sirs, what must I do to be saved?

 I want to ask you something. When Paul and Silas were praying, were they only praying for themselves? No! I really believe they were praying also for the Roman guards. Lord, get a hold of them, O God show them, open their eyes to your salvation! Listen, sometimes you are allowed to come into tight places, difficult situations that look grim and it looks like you just can’t come out of it. But you trust, you pray, you keep singing Praise to God and when the Lord moves, it opens the eyes of those around you and proves your God is real! He loves to deliver and show the sinner His great Power and Love. **Vs. 31** – And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. (God opened a literal prison door to open this poor sinner mans eyes!) **Vs. 32** – And they spake unto him the Word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. **Vs. 33** – And he (the jailer) took them (Paul and Silas) the same hour of the night and washed their stripes and was baptized, he and all his straightway.

 I believe the story could have easily went like this…….. Can you imagine this humbled Roman guard takes Paul and Silas to his home late at night and says to all his family, wake up! Get up, I’ve got something to tell all of you! I SAW A MIRACLE tonight that’s changed the rest of my life. Listen children, I was there when these two were brought in – beaten and bloody. I and the other guards fastened their feet in shackles. We left them in the cold dark cell. I shut and locked the iron bars. I sat around the corner at my desk. It wasn’t long that I began to hear them praying and calling on God. I heard them speak the name of Jesus. They kept saying - Jesus……Jesus, we Praise you, Jesus we love you. Something began touching my heart. They started singing Praise. I can’t explain it, but there was something radiating from that prison cell! I don’t understand fully the God these two men were calling on, but there was a power that came in that prison and it was overwhelming! Things started shaking. My knees began trembling. I have watched over many inmates, but I have never in my life witnessed such power as these men sang and praised their God. They sang of their Love for Jesus. There was something in that song that got a hold of me. I tried to stand, then suddenly the earth shook. Listen wife, I heard chains rattle and the clanging of fallen shackles. I took my lantern and when I turned the corner, there stood these two men with glowing faces. The door was wide open, the shackles that had them bound were lying on the floor. I pulled my sword to end my life but this man told me not to. He really cared about me, can you believe it? I have seen a miracle tonight! The religion they have is different, there’s Love and power in it! **Vs. 34** – And when he (the jailer) had brought them (Paul and Silas) into his house, he set meat before them, and REJOICED, believing in God with all his house.

 I want to ask you, how did all this come about? Why? It all happened because two servants of God Prayed and Sang Praises in their midnight hour of trial. Can I say, don’t lose your song! Keep right on Praying and Praising the Lord. In time, God will work a miracle and show others that He still cares and He still saves! Listen Brothers and Sisters, your hard places reveal what you’re made of. Your love and faithfulness in difficult times will prove your determination in the eyes of others. It shows them your genuine Faith. They will notice there is a power keeping you. They will see your commitment and Love to the Lord. And through it, the Grace of God will touch their hearts and cause them to turn to Jesus! Who wouldn’t want to serve a Saviour like this?

 In closing, I want to end it in saying – you will never know just how important and how vital your Song and Praise is! There is more power in it than you realize. When you Sing, there is something inside you that transpires. Paul knew the secret that kept him going through the rough times. This is the reason he wrote to the Ephesians **5:18** – Be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs, Singing and making melody in your Heart unto the Lord; giving Thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

 If you’re Saved and Christ lives in your heart, God put a Well inside. The only way this Well will spring up and the Water Flow, - you must Sing and Praise!! Hallelujah! The indwelling Holy Ghost wants to hear you Sing, it’s when He really can move for you! He loves Praises and when you Worship the Lord, He will magnify Jesus in your life, for that is what He was sent to do. He is quiet because we are quiet. He sits idle and doesn’t move because our mouths are closed. We become stagnant and dried up, dead and dull because we have let the devil stop us from Praising God. We have let our troubles seal the lid tight and shut, that there is no life. Listen children, the lid of that life giving Well is your mouth. When you sing of your love for Jesus, it releases the Water and thank God there is Joy in that Water. In your Tongue is the secret to victory. There is overcoming power in the Well. If there was ever a time we need the Water – it is now! We need the Water to flow again! It brings renewed strength.

 **Numbers 21:15** – Wherefore it is said in the book of the wars of the Lord, What He did in the Red Sea, and in the Brooks of Arnon, and at the Stream of the Brooks, and from thence they went to Be’er: that is THE WELL whereof the Lord spake unto Moses, Gather the people together, and I WILL GIVE THEM WATER. Then Israel Sang this Song, Spring up, O Well; Sing ye to it!

 Listen, the Water won’t flow till you start Singing! Spring up O Well and flow again. I’m going to Sing me a new Song unto the Lord……Hallelujah……He brought me out, He Saved me, He’s taking me through, Glory to His Name……He lives, He lives within my Heart……I Praise Him, I Praise Him – He is Worthy……He’s my Saviour, my Lord, my Shepherd, my Captain, my Healer, He’s my Deliverer! He’s Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End……..and best of all – He’s my Soon coming King!

**Ps. 33:1 –** Rejoice in the Lord O ye Righteous, for Praise is comely (beautiful, attractive) for the upright.

**Ps. 66:2 –** Sing forth the honor of His Name: Make His Praise Glorious. **68:4** – Extol Him (Magnify & Lift Him up). MAY GOD BLESS ALL MY READERS! From the Heart of God and the Pen of Tommy Romans!