

25. Faith and Praise

We want to look at a key that God has given us in His Word, through which we can break through many prison doors. It is the key of praising God.

In this study we will look at a very important part of Christian life, which is often misunderstood and, in most cases, not understood at all. I want to begin with a verse in Psalm 106. Here it says, concerning the Israelites, who saw the Egyptians drowned in the Red Sea, "Then they believed God's words, and they sang His praise" (Ps. 106:12). Notice the connection there between faith and praising God. We could say that when a man has faith, he will praise God. But, when a man has unbelief, when he does not believe God's Word or God's promise, then he will grumble and complain and murmur and criticize and find faults and be dissatisfied and discouraged and depressed. If any of these things are found in your life, it will indicate that, even if you think you believe in God and in Jesus Christ, you don't really believe - Because if you believe His words, you will sing His praise. You will never have a complaint in your life concerning anything, if you believe in God and in His promises.

Now the Israelites, mentioned here in Psalm 106, could praise God only after God had destroyed their enemies, those Egyptians, before their eyes. Today, we live by faith. But the Old Testament people, like the Israelites, lived by sight. To live by sight means that they would see something happen before them - a miracle that God did for them - and only then they could believe. In the previous verse we read that, "after all their adversaries were drowned in the Red sea" (Ps. 106:11); When not one of them was left they believed God's words. That is living by sight, i.e. after all your problems are solved, after the

25. 信心与赞美

现在，我们要看一下神的话语，给了我们的一把可以打开很多牢笼的钥匙。这把钥匙，就是赞美神。

这次我们要学习基督徒生活里的一个非常重要的内容，一个经常被误解，甚至大部分人完全理解错了的内容。我要从诗篇 106 的一句经文开始。这里讲到以色列人看到埃及人被淹没在红海以后，“那时他们才信了祂的话，歌唱赞美祂。”（诗 106：12）请大家留意信与赞美的关系。可以这么说，一个对神有信心的人，一定是一个常常赞美神的人。反之，一个对神没信心的人，不相信神的话与应许，就会经常发牢骚、抱怨、指责、挑毛病、不满足、泄气、沮丧。如果你的生活是这样的，就说明即使你自以为相信上帝、相信耶稣基督，可你其实并不是真的相信。因为如果你真的相信祂的话，一定会歌唱赞美祂。如果你相信神和祂的应许，就不会为生活里的任何事心生抱怨。

在诗篇 106 这里，我们看到以色列人只能在神把他们的敌人，就是那些埃及人，从他们眼前消灭了以后，才能赞美神。可现今的我们，是该生活在信心里的。而那旧约时代的以色列人，则是只能靠眼所见的来生活。也就是说，他们仅仅能在看见神迹后，才去相信神。11 节的经文说，“水淹没他们的敌人，没有一个存留”以后，他们才相信了神说过的话。这就是靠眼所见的来活，好比当你的困难被解决了以后，或是风暴被止住了，敌人被淹没了，一个都不剩了，我们才赞美神。旧约时代，他们就只能靠着眼见的去生活。然而这是任何人都能做到的。就连不信神的，也可以在所有困难得到解决后觉得感恩。

storm has been stilled, after the enemies have been drowned and the last one of them has been killed, then we praise God. That is to live by sight, and that is all they could do in the Old Testament. Anybody can do that. Even an unconverted heathen person would be thankful, when all his problems are solved.

But, in the New Covenant, now that Jesus has come, we don't walk by sight, we walk by faith. We can believe the Word of God even before we see the enemies drowned in the sea. We can praise God while our enemies are still in front of us, like David said, "You have set a table before me in the presence of my enemies." That means, my problems may not be solved, but I have faith in God, and I can praise Him. As I praise Him, I find that the problems will get solved. But they will never get solved, if we are always murmuring and complaining.

Do you know, dear friend, that the more you murmur and complain, you are really adding to your problem. It is not going to get solved at all. Maybe somebody harmed you. The more you get bitter against that person, what are you doing to yourself? - You are just destroying yourself. The more you keep that bitterness in your heart, it will destroy you more and more; it will destroy your body; destroy your soul; destroy your spirit; destroy your relationship with God. You won't be able to enjoy life at all and you get ulcers in your stomach and all types of things. You see, when God gives us laws they are for our good. They are for the good of our body; they are good for our soul; for the good of our spirit.

There is a very close connection between faith and praising God. We see that also in the New Testament. In Hebrews 2:12, 13 we read some amazing words mentioned about what Jesus Himself does in the midst of a church. Here we read,

可是到了新约时代，主耶稣基督已经在我们里面了，我们就不再需要靠眼所能见的去活了，而是可以靠着信心去活了。我们在敌人被淹没之前，就可以相信神的话。我们甚至可以当敌人还在眼前的时候，就赞美神，如同大卫说过，“在我敌人面前，你为我摆设筵席”。这话的意思就是，即使我的困难还没得到解决，可我对神有信心，我可以赞美祂。当我赞美祂的时候，会发现问题渐渐被解决了。然而假如我一直不停的发牢骚抱怨，那这些问题就一直得不到解决。

亲爱的朋友，你们知道吗，你抱怨牢骚的越多，其实越是在给自己添麻烦。而且困难也将完全得不到解决。可能有人伤害了你，你心里怨恨一个劲儿的发牢骚，结果怎样？你是在毁你自己。你心里装的苦毒越多，把自己毁的就越厉害。毁了身体、毁了情智、毁了灵魂，也毁了你与神的关系。你没法享受生活，搞不好还会得胃溃疡和一大堆别的毛病。你看，神给我们的律法，是为了我们好。对我们的体、魂，和灵都有好处。

对神有信心，与赞美神之间有着密切的关系。在新约我们也看到，希伯来书 2 章 12 节和 13 节说到，主耶稣祂亲自要在教会中所做的。耶稣说，“我要传你的名（就是父的名）与我的弟兄”。这句之前的经文，我们可以清楚知道这句是主耶稣在说话：我要传天父

in the words of Jesus, "I will proclaim your name" - i.e. the Father's name - "to my brethren." You can very clearly see from the previous verse that it is Jesus who is speaking: I will proclaim the Father's name to my brothers - i.e. to you and me - "and in the midst of the church, I will sing Thy praise," and again, "I will put my trust in Him." Notice here again the connection between praise in verse 12 and trust in verse 13. Because we put our trust in Him, we sing His praise; exactly what we read in Psalm 106. We are told in Hebrew 2:11 and 12 that we are the younger brothers of Jesus and He is our elder brother who is praising the Father in the midst of the church. We are called to follow Him and His example and join with him in exalting our heavenly Father.

Now God is a very great King. He is the greatest King of all, the King of the Universe. Therefore He does not sit on any cheap throne of silver or gold; such thrones would be too cheap for Him. We read in Psalm 22 about the throne on which God sits (and that is good for us to know), - "Thou art holy O my God, Thou Who art enthroned upon the praises of Israel" (Ps. 22:3) - today the praises of the Church. So, how do we make a throne for God? - By our praises. Praise forms the throne on which God sits as a King. That is why heaven is a place of perpetual praise, like we read in the Book of Revelation - the angels are constantly praising God. That is the throne on which God sits.

When the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts, He brings heaven down into our hearts. We can now prepare a throne of praise for our God to be enthroned upon in our hearts, in our homes, and in the church. So, when we praise God, we are actually saying, 'God, you are King and here is the throne we have prepared for you to come and sit upon.' Do you want God to dwell in your heart? -

的名与我的弟兄（就是你我），“在会中我要颂扬你”，尔后又说“我要依赖祂”。你有没有留意到 12 节里的赞美和 13 节里的信赖？因为我们信赖祂，才会欢唱赞美祂，正如我们在诗篇 106 看到的。希伯来书 2 章 11 节和 12 节说，我们是主耶稣的弟弟和妹妹，祂是我们的长兄，在教会里称颂我们的天父。上帝要我们把长兄主耶稣作为榜样，和祂一起将天父高举。

上帝是伟大的君王，最伟大的君王，是宇宙的君王。因此祂不坐在那些金银制的便宜王座上。诗篇 22 告诉我们上帝的宝座是什么（我们也当知晓），“神你是圣洁的，用以色列的赞美为宝座”（诗篇 22 章 3 节），在今天，是全教会的赞美。那么现在你知道了，我们怎样为神建宝座？那就是用我们的赞美。神在赞美的宝座上为王。这也就是为什么天堂是赞美声永不停息之地，我们在启示录里看到，天使们都不停的赞美神。那是神的宝座。

当神的圣灵来到我们心里时，祂也将天堂带进我们心里。我们现在也能够心里，在我们家里，在我们的教会里，用赞美为我们的神预备宝座。因此，在我们每次赞美神的时候，实际上就是在说，“神啊，你就是君王，这是我们为你预备的宝座。”你是否愿意神住在你心里？很简单，只要为祂预备一个宝座。你是否愿意神住在你们的教会里？那就为祂预备宝座。

Very simple, prepare a throne for Him. You want God to dwell in your home? - Prepare a throne for him there. Do you want God to dwell in the church? - Prepare a throne for Him there.

What is the throne? - A throne of praises. In other words, let your life be filled with the spirit of praise, not necessarily of words. We can't always be praising God, 24 hours of the day! We have got work to do, we have to sleep, and we have to do so many things. It is the spirit of praise - let your home be filled with the spirit of praise. In other words, totally eliminate all grumbling, all complaining, all murmuring from your life, because that destroys the throne on which God is supposed to sit. On the other hand, when you grumble and complain, or get angry and lose your temper and get irritated, you are actually preparing a throne for Satan!

So you see, two thrones that you can make in your life, in your home: one is the throne of praise, giving thanks to God always for all things in the name of Jesus Christ, a throne on which God will sit; or, a throne of complaining, murmuring, grumbling, dissatisfaction, discontentment, which you offer for the devil to come and sit, whether it is in your life or in your home, or in your church. And that is why the Bible says, in Philippians 2:12-14, that when the Holy Spirit is working in our heart, He seeks to eliminate all grumbling, disputing and murmuring from our lives completely, because He wants to prepare a throne in our hearts for our heavenly Father. That is what the Holy Spirit has really come for.

You know, we have lived all our lives with our own self sitting on the throne in our hearts. That means, we listen to self, whatever self wants; we do, whatever the self likes. We please ourselves, we live for ourselves, and we want to enjoy ourselves. And

这个赞美的宝座是什么？其实换句话说来说，那不一定是有声的语言，那是让你的生命充满赞美的灵。没人能一天 24 小时不停的用言语来赞美神！我们还要工作，要休息。赞美是一种精神，让你的家被这赞美的灵来充满吧。换句话说，就是在你的生活里彻底的去掉那些抱怨和牢骚，因为它们会毁了本该神坐的宝座。另外，当你在抱怨、生气、发脾气或是很烦躁的时候，实际上是在为撒但预备宝座！

因此你看，在生活中，在家里，甚至在教会，你有机会预备两把不同的宝座，一个是神会去坐的，是用赞美和以耶稣基督的名给神的感谢制成的，另一个是用抱怨、牢骚、不满意和心里不平衡制成，预备给魔鬼坐的。因此《圣经》在腓立比书 2 章 12 到 14 节说，当圣灵在我们心中运行时，祂想要把我们心里的抱怨、怀疑和牢骚彻底的清除，这正是因为祂想要在我们心里为我们的天父预备宝座。这也是圣灵降临的真正目的。

你知道吗，我们过去的人生里，坐在心里那个宝座上的，一直是我们自己。我们听自己的，那个“我”想要什么，我们就做什么，那个“我”喜欢什么，我们就做什么。我们取悦自己，完全为自己活着，享受自我。直到有一天，我们说，“主耶稣，请你来到我的心

then one day, when we say, 'Lord Jesus, come into our hearts,' what place do we give Him in our hearts? He is not going to come like a visitor or a guest, but many Christians treat him like that, you know.

How can you prepare a throne for Christ; for God, in your heart? This is how you do it: by praising Him under all circumstances. In the New Testament, we can do that. You see, in the Old Testament, they couldn't praise all the time, because, first of all, the Holy Spirit was not dwelling in people's hearts in those days, and secondly there was no guarantee that God would make everything work together for their good. How could you praise God for something when you are not sure whether it is working out for your good?

But today, things are different. Today, the Holy Spirit has come to dwell in our hearts. He has made it His permanent home, and there, He prepares a throne for the Father. He works in us to deliver us from our sinful nature and He works outside of us as well. We are told in Romans 8:28 that God is working in all the circumstances in our life to make everything work for our good. Now, if everything is working for your good, outside you and inside you, is there any reason for you to have a complaint about anything? - Certainly not. Then, why don't you give up all complaining and praise God?

Here's the answer: You don't really believe. You don't really believe what God says in Romans 8:28 that He causes everything to work together for good. You see, it is only when we believe that Word, that God is Almighty; that God is Sovereign, we can praise Him. Look at the stars sometimes and see how great God is. Do you think it is difficult for Him to handle that small, puny situation that you are facing? It may be a difficult boss or a difficult

里”，这时我们要把心里哪个位置给祂呢？祂来我们心里，不是来访问参观的，然而很多基督徒对待祂就好像对待一个访客。

那么在你心里，如何才能为基督，为神预备一个宝座呢？方法就是，用对祂的赞美，无论何种境况。新约时代，我们有条件这样做。旧约时代的人们是无法做到的，其一是那时圣灵还没有住进人心里，其二是那时的人们没有听过神应许让万事互相效力，使他们得益处。当你无法确定，神做的一切是否对你有益处时，当然我们就无法时时赞美祂。

然而，如今的情况不同了。圣灵已经来到并且住在我们心里了。祂把我们的心作为了家，并且在那里为天父预备了宝座。祂在我们里面，救我们脱离罪的天性，同时祂也在外面动工。罗马书 8 章 28 节告诉我们，神让万事互相效力，使我们可以得益处。那么如果各种境况，无论内在还是外在，神都会使用从而使我们得益处，你还有什么理由抱怨呢？真的没有了。那么为什么你无法停止抱怨，来赞美神呢？

真正的原因就是，你根本就不相信。你不相信神在罗马书 8 章 28 节说的，祂让万事互相效力，叫爱神的人得益处。所以你看，只有当我们相信这话，相信神至高无上的神权与祂的全能，才可能赞美祂。请你在夜晚抬头看看天上的星星，提醒你这位造物的上帝是何其大能。你觉得自己现在面对的困境，难相处的上司、房东，或者别的，对祂来说太难应付了吗？有什么人或境况，是创造了一切的上帝所无法处理的？

landlord or some particular problem you are facing; do you think that person or that circumstance is too difficult for God to handle? Of course, He can handle it. What is there that God can't handle?

But, He can't do that for you till you start praising Him, till you say, 'Lord, here is the proof of my faith; I praise You. I want to thank You. I want to exalt You. I want to acknowledge that You are on the throne of heaven, and I don't have any complaint about the way people are treating me, about my circumstances, or about anything in my life. I believe that You are in total control.' Is it enough to say that in words? No, we praise Him from our heart, in spirit. As we praise Him, we acknowledge that God is in total control. That is how we honour Him. And when you do that, you will discover how God makes a way for you out of that situation.

然而，只有当你去赞美祂的时候，说，“主啊，这是我信心的证明，我要赞美你，感谢你。我想要你被高举，你就在天上的宝座，无论人怎么对我，无论环境如何，我都没什么要抱怨的。因为我相信一切都在你圣善全能的掌控之下”，这样祂才可以去帮你处理。然而简单重复这话是没用的，除非你是发自内心的赞美祂。因为在我们真心赞美神的时候，就是在承认神圣善的全知全能。这是我们把荣耀归给祂的方式。这样这样的赞美祂，然后经历祂如何领你走出困境。