

29. Praise Brings Deliverance

Once again we want continue to look at this tremendous power that can come into our lives if we learn how to praise God in all situations.

God allows Satan to harass and trouble His children in many ways. Why do you think God allows that? God is wise, and He can destroy Satan in a moment, if He likes. But He doesn't do it, because He accomplishes something good through it. That is why He has permitted Satan to continue to exist. Fire, for example, is dangerous but fire can purify gold. In the same way, God can use the trials, the persecutions, and the oppression that Satan can bring upon His children, to purify them, just like gold is purified. But we have to react in a proper way, in a good way to those trials and temptations.

The right way to react, if you have faith, is with a spirit of praise: 'Lord I will not complain here. I am suffering, perhaps I am going through a difficult time, but I will not lose my faith. God is on the throne and the devil is defeated on the cross. My sins are forgiven. My past is blotted out. I am on my way to heaven. Jesus is my Lord; my heavenly bridegroom, and God is making everything work together for my good.' And when we remain in the spirit of thanksgiving and praise like that, in every situation, you know what happens?

I want show you a wonderful verse in Psalm 50. In Psalm 50:23, we read, "The one who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honours Me, says the Lord, and makes a way for Me to show him My deliverance." That is the literal translation of that verse that, anyone who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honours God and, in doing that, he makes a way for God to show him God's

29. 讚美帶來解脫

現在我們要再一次考查,若能學會無論任何境遇都讚美神,我們的生命可以獲得的巨大能力。

上帝允許撒但用很多方式騷擾祂的兒女們。你覺得這是為什麼呢?上帝是充滿智慧的,並且假如祂願意,一下子就可以除掉撒但。可祂並沒有那麼做,那是因為祂要利用撒但來成就更美好的事情。所以現在祂仍然允許撒但的存在。打個比方,火是危險的,可是卻能被用來煉金子。同樣的,上帝利用這些試煉和撒但對祂兒女的迫害來說明我們成長,像煉金子一樣煉淨我們。然而,這需要我們對試煉和誘惑做出正確的回應。

這正確的回應,是帶著那在信心中對神頌贊的靈說,「主啊,此刻我不想抱怨。雖然我正在受苦,或許我還要經歷一段艱難的時光,可我不要失去信心。上帝坐在寶座上為王,魔鬼已經完全敗在了十字架上。我全部的罪都已經得到了赦免,過去已經一筆勾銷。我正在去天國的路上。耶穌是我的主,是我在天上的新郎。神讓萬事互相效力,使我得益處。」當任何境遇我們都在如此感恩讚美的靈裡時,你猜會怎樣?

我想指給你詩篇 50 一處絕妙的經文。詩篇 50 章 23 節說,「凡以感謝獻上為祭的便是榮耀我。那按正路而行的,我必使他得著我的救恩。」這節經文直接翻譯出來的意思就是,任何人若將感謝獻上作祭物,就榮耀神,這樣做的同時,也為上帝給你的救贖鋪路。這話是什麼意思?那是說,當你被環境逼得走投無路,想讓神來解救你時,你需要為神鋪路迎接祂對你的拯救。如果你不用讚美來開路,神就不能救你。

deliverance or Salvation. Now what does that mean? It means that if you are in a tight spot right now, and you want God to deliver you from it, you have to make a way for God to show you that deliverance; for God to bring that deliverance. God will do the deliverance, but He cannot do that until you open a way for it and the way we open the way is by praising the Lord.

That is what it says here: 'The one who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving makes a way for God to bring deliverance in that situation.' This means that there are many situations out of which we could have been delivered, if we had praised God instead of complaining against people and against the devil - Because praise is the mark of faith. They believed his words, they sang His praise. If you don't praise God, God can do nothing for you, because you don't believe Him. 'Without faith, it is impossible to please God,' we read in Hebrews. But with faith you can shut the mouth of lions, you can put enemies to flight, you can open prison doors. With faith, people even got their dead children back to life. Faith is a tremendous power and faith is manifested in praise.

Now praying alone cannot deliver us out of some situation. It is good to pray when you are in a tight spot but, in addition to prayer, we must learn how to praise. In other words, we must keep on praying until we reach the point where we don't have to pray anymore. We have an assurance in our heart, the Holy Spirit gives us a witness in our heart, God has heard our prayer and then, what do you do after that? Supposing you are asking for something and, after sometime, you hear a witness in your spirit that it is been granted, what do you do? Then you praise God, you thank Him. Faith is then born and we believe that we have received, like Jesus said, "When you pray believe that you have received." You can't do that at the beginning, but as you

這裡說的就是,對神獻上感激為祭的人,為上帝在那個環境裡準備了拯救的道路。也就是說,假如我們讚美神,而不是抱怨人,甚至抱怨魔鬼,曾經有很多境遇,我們原本是可以得到說明的。因為讚美是信心的標誌。相信祂話語的人,會唱著讚美祂。你若不讚美祂,祂就不能為你做什麼,因為你並不相信祂。我們在希伯來書看到「人非有信,就不能得神的喜悅」。而靠著信心,你能讓獅子閉嘴,讓敵人逃竄,讓監牢門打開。信心甚至能讓人見到他們的孩子死而復生。信心是巨大的力量,而信心是通過真心的讚美來彰顯的。

有些境況單靠著禱告我們得不到釋放。在艱難的境況裡禱告是對的,只是在禱告之外,我們必須學會如何讚美。換句話說,我們必須要一直禱告,直到這件事得到解決而不需要再禱告為止。當你心裡有了確信,神已垂聽了你的禱告,那時的你會怎麼做?假設你一直在求某樣東西,過了一段時間,你在靈裡聽到了確信,那樣東西已經賜給你了,那時的你會怎麼做?這時你一定會讚美神,感謝祂。這時信心產生了,我們相信自己得到了神的回答,如同主耶穌說,「禱告祈求時要信已經得著。」在一開始的時候,當你還無法做到,但當你繼續不斷的禱告,會在某一個時候開始你相信自己會得著。即使那個回應還沒有實現,你暫時還不能用眼看見,可你讚美神就定會得到那應許。在你內心得到確信那個時刻,就可以停止禱告祈求,轉而讚美神。這就是信心的證明,通過這樣的讚美,我們為神給的解救預備道

continue to pray, you come to a point where you believe that you receive. Even though the answer has not yet come, you can't see the answer yet, but you praise God and then we will receive what we pray for. When that point comes, we stop praying and start praising God. That is the evidence of faith and then, through that praise, we make a way for the God to show us His deliverance.

Now there is a wonderful example of this in the Old Testament, in 2 Chronicles 20. It is unfortunate that some believers don't read the Old Testament so much, particularly the Books of Chronicles. They are not so familiar with it. Here is beautiful story where we read of a great multitude of enemies that surrounded King Jehoshaphat. When King Jehoshaphat was surrounded by such a great multitude of enemies, he called the whole nation of Judah to seek God in fasting and prayer. That was absolutely a proper thing to do.

They prayed to God and, in their prayer, they acknowledged three things. You know what they said to God? They acknowledged their helplessness, they acknowledged their foolishness, and then they acknowledged their faith (2 Chr. 20:12). Now these are the three things we need to acknowledge too. It is easy to acknowledge our helplessness and our foolishness, to say, 'Well Lord, we have got no strength against this situation and we don't know what to do.' We can say that in all situations, but nothing happens, if you stop there. You got go on and say, 'Lord we believe that you will answer us.'

Now notice the prayer that Jehoshaphat prayed, in 2 Chronicles 20:6-12. You see, this is a pattern for prayer, something that we can learn from Jehoshaphat. Notice the seven things he prayed for. First of all, he praised God for His Sovereignty

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舊約歷代志下 20 章有一個絕妙的例子。很遺憾現今很多信徒都不怎麼讀舊約了,特別是歷代志。他們對這些經文都不怎麼熟悉。這裡我們看到約沙法被眾多敵人攻擊時發生的絕妙故事。當約沙法被如此多敵人圍攻的時候,他呼召了全猶大地的人禁食禱告,尋求耶和華。這在那樣的時刻,正是他該做的。

他們向神禱告,在禱告中,他們向神坦誠了三件事。他們是怎麼說的?首先,他們承認自己的無助;爾後他們承認自己愚笨;最後他們表明了信心(歷代志下 20 章 12 節)。這也是我們需要對神表明的三件事。在這樣的時刻對神承認自己的無助和愚笨很容易,說「哦我的神啊,對這個境況我毫無能力,也不知道該怎麼做。」在各種情形下我們都可以這麼說,可是如果你就只說這麼多,那麼什麼都不會發生。我們需要繼續說,「主啊,我們相信你定會垂聽。」

下面請留意,歷代志下 20 章 6 到 12 節裡,約沙法是如何禱告的。這就是禱告該有的模式,我們該向約沙法來學習。請留意他禱告的七個內容。首先,第 6 節他讚美神至高無上的屬天的權柄。他說,「主你是萬邦萬國的主宰,在你手中有大能大力,無人能抵擋你。」

(verse 6). He said, 'Lord you are the ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations; power and might are in your hand, no one can stand against you.' You know when we pray to God, it is good to remind ourselves, first of all, of the sovereignty of God. Jesus said, 'When you pray, say, 'Our Father,' and then what, 'who art in Heaven.' That means the one who is the sovereign ruler from Heaven.

Then the second thing that Jehoshaphat reminded God and reminded himself of was what God had done in past days. 'Lord, are You not the one who drove out the Canaanites from this land and You gave it to the descendants of Abraham forever' (verse 7). See, if we remind ourselves of what God has done for us in the past, then that really stirs our faith. You know, sometimes you are facing a very difficult situation and you feel there is no way out. Why don't you look back over your life and think of the many, many, many times in your life where you felt that there was no way out, and God made a way out! That stirs up faith in your heart.

Then the third thing we read is that Jehoshaphat reminded God of His promise in His word. He said, 'Didn't you say Lord that, if evil comes upon us or the sword and, if we stand before You in this house and cry to You, You will deliver us' (verse 9). And that is another good thing to have when we are in a tight situation - some promise from the word of God. It could be a simple promise like we have in Psalm 50 which says, 'Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you.' Say, 'Lord you promise that'. Do it now. It is good to know the promises of Scriptures. It is good to memorize the promises of God in Scriptures so that you can quote them in prayer. It strengthens faith; it is fuel for faith. You know, it is like putting fuel in the fire, then the fire burns brighter. If you don't have any promises then the fire of faith burns very low.

你知道嗎,當我們向神禱告時,最好首先提醒我們自己,神是至高無上的主宰。主耶穌教我們禱告時說,「我們那在天上的父。」說的意思就是這一位是至高的主宰。

爾後約沙法說的第二件事,是提醒神,也提醒自己,以往神是如何說明自己的,第 7 節說「我們的神啊,你不是會在你民以色列人面前驅逐這地的居民,將這地賜給你朋友亞伯拉罕的後裔永遠為業嗎?」你看,當我們提醒自己,從前神如何說明過我們,那真會激發我們的信心。你知道嗎,有時候當你面對困境,無法想像出路的時候,為何不回頭看看過往的人生,有多少次你自以為無路可走的時候,神帶你走出了困境!那能激發你心中的信心。

爾後你看到約沙法說的第三件事是提醒神祂的承諾。第 9 節他說,「主你不是說,倘有禍患臨到我們,或刀兵災殃,或瘟疫饑荒,我們在急難的時候,站在這殿前向你呼求,你必垂聽而拯救,因為你的名在這殿裡。」這是我們在困境裡當作的另一件非常有用的事情,就是神的應許。這應許可以像詩篇 50 篇裡的,「在患難之日求告我,我必搭救你」,然後對神說,「主你答應我的。」現在就來這麼做。我們應當瞭解《聖經》裡神的應許。牢記神在《聖經》裡的應許,這樣在你禱告之時就可以引用。這能堅固信心,如同為信心之火添柴,讓火焰愈加旺盛。離了神的應許,信心的火苗就很微弱。

Fourthly, we read in verse 11 that he reminded God saying, 'We are your inheritance.' We are not just like other people in the world. We are your inheritance, You purchased us. That is the fourth thing we can tell God too. 'Lord you purchased us on Calvary; the blood of Jesus has purchased me. I am God's inheritance'. You are God's inheritance, purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Fifthly, he told God, what we already saw: 'Lord we are powerless, and we are weak' (verse 12). That is another thing we need to acknowledge. Sometimes we think that we are very strong, but we are actually weak. It is good for us to acknowledge it. Say, 'Lord, I am weak, I can't handle the situation, and it is too much for me.' Then sixthly, in the same verse 12, he said, 'Lord, not only I am weak, I don't have any wisdom as to what to do in this situation'. That is also good for us to acknowledge. Instead of thinking that we are clever and capable, say, 'Lord, I don't have any wisdom.' The Bible says in James 1, "Does anyone like wisdom among you, let him ask God. God will give him liberally" (Jas. 1:5). But you got to be humble and say, 'Lord, I don't know how to handle this situation.' Finally, the seventh (this is where you must finish), he said, 'But our eyes are on you; we are trusting in you.'

Let me go through those seven things. First of all, he praised God for His sovereignty (verse 6). Secondly, he reminded himself of what God had done in past days (verse 7). Third, he reminded God of His promise (verse 9). Fourth, he reminded God that we are your inheritance (verse 11) and then in verse 12, he reminded God of three things: first, we have no power to handle this, we have no wisdom, but we are relying on you; we are trusting in you completely.

第四,我們看到 11 節裡,約沙法提醒神說,「這是你賜給我們為業之地。」我們與世上的其他人不同,因為我們是神的子民,因為你贖買了我們。這也是我們該在禱告中對神說的第四件事。「主啊,你在十字架上贖買了我,用主耶穌的寶血贖買了我。我現在是神你的子民。」你我都是上帝在十字架上用主耶穌的寶血買來的子民。

第五,他再一次告訴上帝前面說過的,「主,我們無力抵擋這來攻擊我們的大軍,.....」(12 節)這是我們需要承認的。有時候我們以為自己很強,可實際我們都非常弱。承認自己的軟弱是于我們有益的。告訴上帝,「主啊,我很軟弱,我無力處理這境況,這太難了。」第六,同樣在 12 節,他說到,「我們不但無力抵擋,也不知道該怎樣行.....」承認自己的愚鈍而不是自以為聰明有能力,也是同樣有益的,說「主啊,我沒有智慧。」《聖經》雅各書 1 章說,「你們中間若有缺少智慧的,應當求那厚賜與眾人、也不斥責人的神,主就必賜給他。」然而這需要你謙卑自己,說「主啊,我不知道怎麼辦。」最後,就是第七(你必須以這來結束禱告),他說,「我們的眼目單仰望你。我們相信你。」

下面我們把這禱告裡的七件事重頭看一遍。首先,讚美神的至高能力(6 節);第二,他提醒自已神過往曾成就過什麼(7 節);第三,他提醒神祂給的應許(9 節);第四,他提醒神,我們是祂的子民(11 節);接下來在 12 節,他提醒神三件事,就是我們沒有能力,沒有智慧,我們完全仰賴于你。我們把全部的信任都放在你身上。

We read in the rest of that chapter (take time to read it) that the enemies were thoroughly defeated. They went out praising God. They didn't take any weapons; neither bows nor arrows. They just went out praising the Lord. Jehoshaphat believed God and he sent a choir of people praising God. We read in verse 22, "As they began singing and praising the Lord," exactly like we saw in Psalm 50:23, the Lord opened the door for them to be delivered and the enemies were defeated. Not only the enemies were defeated, we read later on in that chapter, but that Israel became rich with the wealth of their enemies. This is the secret. Whatever situation you are in, learn to praise God on the foundation of these seven things that I have mentioned and you will find God opens a door for you to be set free.

這章後面的經文(請花時間把這些內容讀了)我們看到敵人被完全的擊敗了。他們都出來大聲的讚美神。他們沒有用武器,沒用弓沒用箭,就只是讚美神。約沙法相信神,他用自己的人民對神的頌歌獻給神。我們看到 22 節說,「眾人方唱歌讚美的時候,耶和華就派伏兵擊殺那來攻擊猶大人的亞捫人、摩押人和西珥山人,他們就被打敗了。」就如我們在詩篇 50 篇 23 節看到的,神解救那些相信祂的人,敵人就被打敗了。而且不止是敵人被擊敗,後面我們還看到,以色列人因為得到他們敵人的財寶而富有。這是一個秘密。無論你處於什麼境況,學習基於這七點來讚美神,你將發現上帝為你開門搭救你。