

30. Praise Opens Closed Doors

We will have one more study on this wonderful key of praise which opens every door and which can set us free from situations that are like prisons.

In our last study we were looking at 2 Chronicles 20. It is one of the finest illustrations, in the entire Bible, on how the spirit of praise can defeat the enemy and deliver you from situations when you are surrounded by problems which you don't know how to handle. Faith always brings praise.

Jesus said, 'If you believe, nothing will be impossible to you.' When you trust in God, you will never be disappointed. Man may disappoint you, but God will never disappoint you. He may take time to answer your prayer, and take time before He solves your problem, and opens the prison door, but He will definitely do it, one day. He doesn't want His children to be bound. He wants His children to be free in their spirits. In their bodies, they may be locked up. Paul was locked up, Peter was locked up; they were even killed. But in your spirit, God always wants you to be like the birds in the air, flying, like the eagles flying in the air, and that comes through the spirit of praise. You know an eagle flapping its wings, and rising up is a picture of a Christian praising God with all his heart.

I want to point out one or two things to you from 2 Chronicles 20 where Jehoshaphat was surrounded by so many enemies that they were far too many for him to handle. God allows us to face situations, where we see that we are absolutely helpless, we are weak. Once, when Jesus spoke about prayer, He pictured the church as a poor, helpless, old widow who was being harassed by some enemy (Lk. 18). Can you picture this in your mind?- A poor,

30. 赞美能打开关着的门

我们打算再一次审视“赞美”，这把可以打开任何一扇门的万能钥匙，它可以把我们境遇的牢笼中解脱出来。

我们上次读过历代志下 20 章。这是整本《圣经》里对于这个内容最好的描绘，赞美的灵击败仇敌，将你从自己完全无能为力的境况里解救出来。信心必会带来赞美。

主耶稣说，“在信的人，凡事都能。”若你相信上帝，祂必不会令你失望的。世上的人常会令你失望，可上帝永远不会令你失望。祂将应许的交给你，或是帮你解决问题，救你出牢笼，这些或许会花一些时间，然而祂必定不会辜负你。祂不想让自己的孩子受辖制，并且渴望自己的孩子们从邪灵的权势里脱离得自由。我们的肉体可能仍然被囚禁。就像使徒保罗、使徒彼得，他们都被囚禁，甚至被杀害。然而你的灵，上帝永远希望能如鹰一般自由翱翔，那就是通过赞美而来的。你知道鹰扇动翅膀上升，那就如同一个基督徒全心赞美神时灵里上腾的样子。

历代志下 20 章里的一两个内容我还需要指出来。约沙法当时面对的敌人数量，对他而言实在是太多了。上帝有时候会允许我们面对一些境况，在我们自己看来是毫无指望的。主耶稣有一次谈到祷告的时候，把教会比喻成穷困潦倒无依无靠的老寡妇被人袭击（路加福音 18 章）。你能想象那个画面吗？一个无依无靠的穷寡妇被壮年人欺负，家里没有男人，既没丈夫，也有儿子，她不知所措。那个壮年兴许为了房租、或者想赶她走之类的。她就来到法官那里求帮

helpless, old widow being harassed by some strong man or men, and she has no man in the house, no husband, no sons and she doesn't know what to do. These men are harassing her, maybe for rent, or turning her out of the house, or not giving her own property back, something like that. She goes to a judge and asks the judge to help her.

Now, what is the picture we have here of the Church? The Church is not a strong muscular 'Heman'. No, Jesus pictured the Church like a helpless widow. Are we like that? Yes we are. God has made the Church weak on earth, so that it will depend on the Lord. You know, in the early days, the Christians were thrown to the lions. Well, they couldn't defend themselves physically against the might of the Roman Empire but, in their spirits, they were free. God allows us to be weak, because it is only when we are weak that we can exercise faith in Him. Otherwise, we tend to depend on our resources. So God allowed so many enemies to come around Jehoshaphat, and we read in 2 Chronicles 20:2, He said, 'Lord we are powerless.' Now, if 1 or 2 enemies had come, he wouldn't have said that, but God allowed so many to come. He told the Lord, 'we are helpless, we just can't handle this.'

When you are defeated by sin, overcome by Satan, you say, that is because you are weak. No, my friend, it is not because you are weak, it is because you are strong! You are so strong. That is why you are defeated. If you were weak, you would turn to God and you would experience God's help and you would be an over comer. Only weak people can praise God. Strong people praise themselves. So we see only a strong person has got strong opinions, he speaks strong stinging words to other people and he is quick to judge other people. Are you like that? Then you are not weak, a weak person is not like that.

助。

我们在这个比喻里看到教会是什么样子的吗？教会不是那个“壮年人”，而是被主耶稣比喻成无依无靠的寡妇。那我们是如此的吗？是的，我们就是这样的。上帝让教会在世上很软弱，如此一来，教会就必须完全的依靠神。你知道吗，早期教会的许多基督徒被丢去喂狮子。他们肉体上根本无法与罗马帝国抗争，然而在灵里，他们却是自由的。上帝允许我们肉体上软弱，因为只有当我们软弱的时候才能操练对祂的信心。否则我们总会试图依赖自己的办法。上帝因此允许约沙法被数量巨大的敌人包围，他对上帝说，“主啊，我们毫无办法。”想象一下，假如只有一两个敌人来犯的话，他不会对上帝的说这种话，然而就是因为有这么多的敌人，他才会对神说，“我们毫无办法，无法应对这个局面。”

当我们被罪击倒，败给撒但的时候，我们常常会说，自己太软弱了。然而你错了，我的朋友，当你败给罪的时候，不是因为你太软弱，反而是因为你太刚强。是的，你太过刚强，所以才会被打败。假如你真的软弱，就一定会转向求神帮助，而后就会经历到神如何救你脱离。只有软弱的人才会赞美神。刚强的人赞美他们自己。我们看到刚强的人总是非常有主张，对人说话带刺，总是很快的评判别人。你是如此吗？那就说明你根本不软弱，因为软弱的人不是这样的。

Supposing that you go to a hospital and you see a man with tubes in his mouth and nose and he is helpless, hardly able to speak, that is a weak person. You don't see him there criticizing others. No, it is only when he gets healthy and stronger again that he starts blaming others, blaming the doctors and the nurses and his enemies and relatives. He starts speaking stinging words and judging others when he has recovered his strength, but when he is weak, he doesn't say a thing. He is just lying there, helpless.

What are you like, aren't you strong? It is strong people that are defeated. Because, we read in 2 Corinthians 12:9, God says, "My strength is made perfect in weak people." That is why God allows us to become weak. When you argue and dispute with people, are you weak or strong? You are strong, and strong people are easy targets for Satan. He always wins the battle with those who argue. That is how he won the battle with Eve. So God allows us to become weak.

That is what we learn in the story of Lazarus. We read that when Jesus got a message that Lazarus was dying, He said, 'We will just wait a little longer and go on to see him later.' Why would He do that? - Because as long as Lazarus was sick, he was still a bit strong. Gradually his strength weakened and weakened until one day he died. When he had become really weak and died God raised him up. What is the lesson from that? That God has to make us weak before he can do His work in us. When Jehoshaphat came to that place and said, 'We are powerless, we don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You; we are expecting You to work on our behalf' (2 Chronicles 20:12), God acted.

Now there are three categories of believers in the

假如你在医院看到一个口鼻都插满管子的病人，话都说不出来，那才是软弱的人。你不会看见他苛责别人。只有当他身体好起来的时候，他才有力气责怪别人，抱怨医生护士，指责他的对头和家人。他力气恢复了才开始对人说话带刺。当他真正虚弱的时候，什么也说不出来，只是无助的躺在那。

那么你是如何呢？你刚强吗？只有刚强的人才会被打败。哥林多后书 12 章 9 节，我们看到上帝说“我的能力是在人的软弱上得以完全。”这也是为什么上帝要我们变得软弱。当我们与人争论不休的时候，是软弱还是刚强？那是太刚强。而刚强的人就正是撒但喜欢攻击的目标。当争执出现的时候，赢的总是撒但。他当年就是这么赢了夏娃的。所以，神不要我们太刚强，反而该变得软弱。

我们在拉撒路的故事也看到，主耶稣听说了拉撒路病得快死了，却说“我们再等等，然后再去见他。”主耶稣为什么要这么做？那是因为但凡拉撒路是病着没死，就还存留一些气力。尔后他一天比一天更虚弱，一直到他死掉的那一刻，他才是完全的软弱了，这时上帝才使他复活。上帝为什么要这么做？为什么要让我们软弱而后才能在我们身上动工？当约沙法在那样的境地中说，“我们毫无能力，完全不知道该怎么办，然而我们的眼目单单仰望你，指望着你来为我们成就。”（历代志下 20 章 12 节）尔后，神就有了作为。

世上的信徒可以分为三类。请留神看看你自己是哪一

world. Pay attention to what I am saying and see which category you belong to! First - those who have a tremendous confidence in themselves. They are very strong, they know the Bible, they pray and fast, they are capable, and they have a lot of confidence in themselves; in their own abilities. Or, it maybe that they don't pray, they don't fast but they are strong in themselves, they have powerful personalities. Such believers can never do any eternal work for God. There is a second category of believers and they are those who have no confidence in themselves and no confidence in God either. They may say they have no strength, they are weak, they are helpless, they are sinners, they are good for nothing, but at the same time they also don't believe that God will ever do anything with them or through them, because they feel God cannot do much. Such believers are also useless to God. Now, here is the third category of believers, the ones those are really useful to God - those who have no confidence in themselves but total confidence in God. Those who say like Jehoshaphat, 'We have no strength, we have no wisdom, but we trust You, Lord. We don't know how to handle this situation but we trust You to handle it.'

Remember this: just to say, we are weak doesn't solve the problem. You must also trust God. Without faith, it is impossible to please Him. To merely confess that we are rotten, good for nothing and foolish is not humility; that is just unbelief. Jesus never confessed that type of thing. Jesus was the humblest person to walk down the earth.

It is when they finally said, 'Lord, we trust you,' we read that a prophet got up there and God sent His message through him saying, 'Don't be afraid, the battle is not yours, but God's. You don't have to fight in this battle; stand still and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf' (2 Chr. 20:15, 17). Stand still

类！首先，是那些对自己非常有自信的，他们强壮聪明，了解《圣经》，或许又祷告又禁食，非常有能力，他们对自己的各方面能力都信心十足。或许也有不常常祷告禁食的，但总的来说，他们就是非常刚强，个性十足。这样的信徒，是无法被神真正使用来成就永恒的。第二类信徒，他们对自己没有信心，可是对神也没有信心。或许他们会说，自己是软弱无助的，是彻头彻尾的罪人，可是同时，他们心里也不相信神能为他们做任何事，或是通过他们做任何事，因为他们心里觉得神不会做什么。这样的信徒对上帝来说也是无用的。第三类信徒，则是真的可以被神大大使用的，他们对自己毫无信心，而单单对神大有信心。他们如同约沙法，会说“我们没有能力，也没有智慧，但是主啊，我相信你。我不知道如何处理的境况，我相信你能处理好。”

请记住：仅仅承认自己软弱是没用的，我们还必须相信上帝。人非有信，就不能得神的喜悦。仅仅承认自己的腐化、无能和愚蠢，这不是谦卑，反而很可能说这话是出于疑惑和不信。主耶稣从来不说这样的话，而祂却是这世上从古至今最谦卑的人。

只有当人说，“主啊，我相信你。”我们才看到上帝透过站在那里的一位先知说，“不要恐惧，这胜败不在乎你们，乃在乎神。你们不要争战，只要摆阵站着，看你的主如何为你们施行拯救。”（历代志下 20 章 15 节、17 节）只管站立不动，看着神如何作为：这话今天神在对谁说？就是在对那些说出，“主啊，我

and see what God is going to do for you: to whom does God speak such words today? To those who say, 'Lord, we are weak, but we are trusting in You.' They will never ever be disappointed or put to shame. You know that there is a wonderful promise in Romans 9:33, "... He who believes in the Lord will never be disappointed." What a wonderful verse! So they went out, and we read in 2 Chronicles 20, that they began to praise the Lord and the enemy was thoroughly defeated.

Now we see another example of this in the book of Jonah. You know the story of Jonah, don't you? He was disobeying God and running away from God. He got onto a ship to go in the opposite direction of where God wanted him to go. God stopped him by getting those people to throw him out of that ship. As soon as he was thrown out of the ship, there was a big fish that swallowed him up. We read that in Jonah 1:17, "The Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah and he was in the stomach of the fish for three days and three nights." What did he do during those three days and three nights, we are not told. Perhaps, he was struggling to get out of that fish's stomach, because it says in Chapter 2:1, 'Then after three days and three nights, he began to pray.'

Now very often that is how we are too. When we get into a problem, maybe in some type of fish's belly, we have got ourselves locked up in. In the beginning, we don't pray. We try to get out in some way or the other, sometimes for many days or weeks. And when everything fails, we start to pray and that is what Jonah also did. For three days and three nights, he did nothing. He tried but every time he tried to get out of the whale's mouth, he just slipped back in. And then he began to pray. Like I said before, God waits till we come to the end of ourselves. The same lesson is here.

们软弱，但我们相信你”这样的人说的。上帝不会使他们失望，也不会使给他们耻辱。你知道吗，罗马书 9 章 33 节说到，“信靠祂的人，必不至于羞愧。”这是多么美妙的经文啊！历代志下 20 章，我们看到接下来他们开始赞美神，再然后，敌人被彻底消灭了。

我们还能从约拿书看到一个例子。约拿的故事你们都知道吧？他违背了上帝的旨意，并且逃跑了，逃上一条与神命令相反方向的船。结果上帝截住他，让船上众人把他丢进海里。他刚被丢出去，就被一条大鱼吞了。你看约拿书 1 章 17 节说，“耶和华安排一条大鱼吞了约拿，他在鱼腹中三日三夜。”《圣经》没有告诉我们约拿这三日三夜干了什么。或许他想挣扎出鱼腹，因为第 2 章 1 节，我们看到，这三日三夜后约拿开始祷告。

我们常常也是如此。当我们刚面对某种“鱼腹”般的难题时，我们常常把自己关起来，开始的时候，并不会祷告。因为我们在试图自己寻求出路，有时候甚至于花几天或是几个星期都有可能。而当一切都失败以后，我们开始像约拿那样祷告了。三天三夜他都没有祷告，而是自己想尽办法从鱼嘴里逃脱，却只是一次次滑回来。尔后，他终于开始祷告了。就像我前面说过的，上帝等着我们走到自己的尽头，是同样的教训。

Then Jonah prayed and he prayed and he prayed and he prayed and still nothing happened. That is another thing we see. Finally, we see, in verse 9, that he began to thank the Lord. He said, "With the voice of thanksgiving, I will sacrifice to you" and then we read in verse 10 that the Lord commanded the fish to vomit Jonah out in the dry land. When did the Lord command the fish to do that? - When Jonah began to praise the Lord. This is the fulfilment of Psalm of 50:23: "He that offers the sacrifice of thanksgiving makes a way, by which I can show him My deliverance," the same thing is mentioned here in Jonah 2:9.

Look at another final example in Acts 16. There we read of the Apostles Paul and Silas, being locked up in the jail. What did they do in the jail? Instead of sleeping and instead of complaining and grumbling, they began to praise the Lord. In Acts 16:25-26, we read, "And as they were praising the Lord, the Lord opened the prison doors." Again a fulfilment of that promise!

My dear friends, the key to every fish's mouth is in God's hands; to every prison door, to every situation you are in. If you praise Him and stop complaining, He can open every door. There is no door that the Lord cannot open. Miracles happen when you begin to praise God in faith.

约拿接下来祷告了一次，一次，又一次。这里有我们需要明白的另外一件事。最终在第 9 节，我们看到他开始感谢神。他说，“用感谢的声音献祭与你。”再接下来我们看到，第 10 节，主吩咐鱼把约拿吐在旱地上。上帝是在什么时候吩咐鱼这么做的？就是在约拿开始赞美神的时候。这是诗篇 50 章 23 节的应许：“凡以感谢献上为祭的便是荣耀我，那按正路而行的，我必使他得着我的救恩。”约拿书 2 章 9 节，说的也是同样的。

我们再从使徒行传 16 章来看最后一个例子。我们在这读到使徒保罗和西拉被锁在监狱里。他们在监狱里做了什么？他们没有睡大觉，也没有抱怨发牢骚，反而是在祷告唱诗赞美神。使徒行传 16 章 25-26 节，我们看到“当他们赞美神的时候，神打开了所有监狱的门”。这又一次是神应许的印证！

我亲爱的朋友，打开所有鱼口、所有监牢，和你所有困境的钥匙都在神的手里。假如你能开始赞美祂，不再抱怨，祂能打开每一扇门。奇迹在你用信心赞美祂时就会发生。