

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. 信心與讚美

現在,我們要看一下神的話語,給了我們的一把可以打開很多牢籠的鑰匙。這把鑰匙,就是讚美神。

這次我們要學習基督徒生活裡的一個非常重要的內容,一個經常被誤解,甚至大部分人完全理解錯了的內容。我要從詩篇 106 的一句經文開始。這裡講到以色列人看到埃及人被淹沒在紅海以後,「那時他們才信了祂的話,歌唱讚美祂。」(詩 106:12)請大家留意信與讚美的關係。可以這麼說,一個對神有信心的人,一定是一個常常讚美神的人。反之,一個對神沒信心的人,不相信神的話與應許,就會經常發牢騷、抱怨、指責、挑毛病、不滿足、洩氣、沮喪。如果你的生活是這樣的,就說明即使你自以為相信上帝、相信耶穌基督,可你其實並不是真的相信。因為如果你真的相信祂的話,一定會歌唱讚美祂。如果你相信神和祂的應許,就不會為生活裡的任何事心生抱怨。

在詩篇 106 這裡,我們看到以色列人只能在神把他們的敵人,就是那些埃及人,從他們眼前消滅了以後,才能讚美神。可現如今的我們,是該生活在信心裡的。而那舊約時代的以色列人,則是只能靠眼所見的來生活。也就是說,他們僅僅能在看見神跡後,才去相信神。11 節的經文說,「水淹沒他們的敵人,沒有一個存留」以後,他們才相信了神說過的話。這就是靠眼所見的來活,好比當你的困難被解決了以後,或是風暴被止住了,敵人被淹沒了,一個都不剩了,我們才讚美神。舊約時代,他們就只能靠著眼見的去生活。然而這是任何人都能做到的。就連不信神的,也可以在所有困難得到解決後覺得感恩。

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,

可是到了新約時代,主耶穌基督已經在我們裡面了,我們就不再需要靠眼所能見的去活了,而是可以靠著信心去活了。我們在敵人被淹沒之前,就可以相信神的話。我們甚至可以當敵人還在眼前的時候,就讚美神,如同大衛說過,「在我敵人面前,你為我擺設筵席」。這話的意思就是,即使我的困難還沒得到解決,可我對神有信心,我可以讚美祂。當我讚美祂的時候,會發現問題漸漸被解決了。然而假如我一直不停的發牢騷抱怨,那這些問題就一直得不到解決。

親愛的朋友,你們知道嗎,你抱怨牢騷的越多,其實越是在給自己添麻煩。而且困難也將完全得不到解決。可能有人傷害了你,你心裡怨恨一個勁兒的發牢騷,結果怎樣?你是在毀你自己。你心裡裝的苦毒越多,把自己毀的就越厲害。毀了身體、毀了情智、毀了靈魂,也毀了你與神的關係。你沒法享受生活,搞不好還會得胃潰瘍和一大堆別的毛病。你看,神給我們的律法,是為了我們好。對我們的體、魂,和靈都有好處。

對神有信心,與讚美神之間有著密切的關係。在新約我們也看到,希伯來書 2 章 12 節和 13 節說到,主耶穌祂親自要在教會中所做的。耶穌說,「我要傳你的名(就是父的名)與我的弟兄」。這句之前的經文,我們可以清楚知道這句是主耶穌在說話:我要傳天父的名與我

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? -

的弟兄(就是你我),「在會中我要頌揚你」,爾後又說「我要依賴祂」。你有沒有留意到 12 節裡的讚美和 13 節裡的信賴?因為我們信賴祂,才會歡唱讚美祂,正如我們在詩篇 106 看到的。希伯來書 2 章 11 節和 12 節說,我們是主耶穌的弟弟和妹妹,祂是我們的長兄,在教會裡稱頌我們的天父。上帝要我們把長兄主耶穌作為榜樣,和祂一起將天父高舉。

上帝是偉大的君王,最偉大的君王,是宇宙的君王。因此祂不坐在那些金銀制的便宜王座上。詩篇 22 告訴我們上帝的寶座是什麼(我們也當知曉),「神你是聖潔的,用以色列的讚美為寶座」(詩篇 22 章 3 節),在今天,是全教會的讚美。那麼現在你知道了,我們怎樣為神建寶座?那就是用我們的讚美。神在讚美的寶座上為王。這也就是為什麼天堂是讚美聲永不停息之地,我們在啟示錄裡看到,天使們都不停的讚美神。那是神的寶座。

當神的聖靈來到我們心裡時,祂也將天堂帶進我們心裡。我們現在也能夠在心裡,在我們家裡,在我們的教會裡,用讚美為我們的神預備寶座。因此,在我們每次讚美神的時候,實際上就是在說,「神啊,你就是君王,這是我們為你預備的寶座。」你是否願意神住在你心裡?很簡單,只要為祂預備一個寶座。你是否願意神住在你們的教會裡?那就為祂預備寶座。

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

這個讚美的寶座是什麼?其實換句話來說,那不一定是
有聲的語言,那是讓你的生命充滿讚美的靈。沒人能
一天 24 小時不停的用言語來讚美神!我們還要工作,要
休息。讚美是一種精神,讓你的家被這讚美的靈來充
滿吧。換句話說,就是在你的生活裡徹底的去掉那些
抱怨和牢騷,因為它們會毀了本該神坐的寶座。另外,
當你在抱怨、生氣、發脾氣或是很煩躁的時候,實際上
是在為撒但預備寶座!

因此你看,在生活中,在家裡,甚至在教會,你有機會預備
兩把不同的寶座,一個是神會去坐的,是用讚美和以耶
穌基督的名給神的感謝製成的,另一個是用抱怨、牢
騷、不滿意和心裡不平衡製成,預備給魔鬼坐的。因
此《聖經》在腓立比書 2 章 12 到 14 節說,當聖靈在
我們心中運行時,祂想要把我們心裡的抱怨、懷疑和牢
騷徹底的清除,這正是因為祂想要在我們心裡為我們的
天父預備寶座。這也是聖靈降臨的真正目的。

你知道嗎,我們過去的人生裡,坐在心裡那個寶座上的,
一直是我們自己。我們聽自己的,那個「我」想要什
麼,我們就做什麼,那個「我」喜歡什麼,我們就做什
麼。我們取悅自己,完全為自己活著,享受自我。直到
有一天,我們說,「主耶穌,請你來到我的心裡」,這時我

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

們要把心裡哪個位置給祂呢?祂來我們心裡,不是來訪問參觀的,然而很多基督徒對待祂就好像對待一個訪客。

那麼在你心裡,如何才能為基督,為神預備一個寶座呢?方法就是,用對祂的讚美,無論何種境況。新約時代,我們有條件這樣做。舊約時代的人們是無法做到的,其一是那時聖靈還沒有住進人心裡,其二是那時的人們沒有聽過神應許讓萬事互相效力,使他們得益處。當你無法確定,神做的一切是否對你有益處時,當然我們就無法時時讚美祂。

然而,如今的情況不同了。聖靈已經來到並且住在我們心裡了。祂把我們的心作為家,並且在那裡為天父預備了寶座。祂在我們裡面,救我們脫離罪的天性,同時祂也在外面動工。羅馬書 8 章 28 節告訴我們,神讓萬事互相效力,使我們可以得益處。那麼如果各種境況,無論內在還是外在,神都會使用從而使我們得益處,你還有什麼理由抱怨呢?真的沒有了。那麼為什麼你無法停止抱怨,來讚美神呢?

真正的原因就是,你根本就不相信。你不相信神在羅馬書 8 章 28 節說的,祂讓萬事互相效力,叫愛神的人得益處。所以你看,只有當我們相信這話,相信神至高無上的神權與祂的全能,才可能讚美祂。請你在夜晚抬頭看看天上的星星,提醒你這位造物的上帝是何其大能。你覺得自己現在面對的困境,難相處的上司、房東,或者別的,對祂來說太難應付了嗎?有什麼人或境況,是創造了一切的上帝所無法處理的?

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,只有當你去讚美祂的時候,說,「主啊,這是我信心的證明,我要讚美你,感謝你。我想要你被高舉,你就在天上的寶座,無論人怎麼對我,無論環境如何,我都沒什麼要抱怨的。因為我相信一切都在你聖善全能的掌控之下」,這樣祂才可以去幫你處理。然而簡單重複這話是沒用的,除非你是發自心底的讚美祂。因為在我們真心讚美神的時候,就是在承認神聖善的全知全能。這是我們把榮耀歸給祂的方式。這樣這樣的讚美祂,然後經歷祂如何領你走出困境。