

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. 讚美能打開關著的門

我們打算再一次審視「讚美」,這把可以打開任何一扇門的萬能鑰匙,它可以把我們從境遇的牢籠中解脫出來。

我們上次讀過歷代志下 20 章。這是整本《聖經》裡對於這個內容最好的描繪,讚美的靈擊敗仇敵,將你從自己完全無能為力的境況裡解救出來。信心必會帶來讚美。

主耶穌說,「在信的人,凡事都能。」若你相信上帝,祂必不會令你失望的。世上的人常會令你失望,可上帝永遠不會令你失望。祂將應許的交給你,或是幫你解決問題,救你出牢籠,這些或許會花一些時間,然而祂必定不會辜負你。祂不想讓自己的孩子受轄制,並且渴望自己的孩子們從邪靈的權勢裡脫離得自由。我們的肉體可能仍然被囚禁。就像使徒保羅、使徒彼得,他們都被囚禁,甚至被殺害。然而你的靈,上帝永遠希望能如鷹一般自由翱翔,那就是通過讚美而來的。你知道鷹扇動翅膀上升,那就如同一個基督徒全心讚美神時靈裡上騰的樣子。

歷代志下 20 章裡的一兩個內容我還需要指出來。約沙法當時面對的敵人數量,對他而言實在是太多了。上帝有時候會允許我們面對一些境況,在我們自己看來是毫無指望的。主耶穌有一次談到禱告的時候,把教會比喻成窮困潦倒無依無靠的老寡婦被人襲擊(路加福音 18 章)。你能想像那個畫面嗎?一個無依無靠的窮寡婦被壯年人欺負,家裡沒有男人,既沒丈夫,也有兒子,她不知所措。那個壯年興許為了房租、或者想趕她走之類的。她就來到法官那裡求說明。

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.

我們在這個比喻裡看到教會是什麼樣子了嗎?教會不是那個「壯年人」,而是被主耶穌比喻成無依無靠的寡婦。那我們是如此的嗎?是的,我們就是這樣的。上帝讓教會在世上很軟弱,如此一來,教會就必須完全的依靠神。你知道嗎,早期教會的許多基督徒被丟去喂獅子。他們肉體上根本無法與羅馬帝國抗爭,然而在靈裡,他們卻是自由的。上帝允許我們肉體上軟弱,因為只有當我們軟弱的時候才能操練對祂的信心。否則我們總會試圖依賴自己的辦法。上帝因此允許約沙法被數量巨大的敵人包圍,他對上帝說,「主啊,我們毫無辦法。」想像一下,假如只有一兩個敵人來犯的話,他不會對上帝說這種話,然而就是因為有這麼多的敵人,他才會對神說,「我們毫無辦法,無法應對這個局面。」

當我們被罪擊倒,敗給撒但的時候,我們常常會說,自己太軟弱了。然而你錯了,我的朋友,當你敗給罪的時候,不是因為你太軟弱,反而是因為你太剛強。是的,你太過剛強,所以才會被打敗。假如你真的軟弱,就一定會轉向求神說明,而後就會經歷到神如何救你脫離。只有軟弱的人才會讚美神。剛強的人讚美他們自己。我們看到剛強的人總是非常有主張,對人說話帶刺,總是很快的評判別人。你是如此嗎?那就說明你根本不軟弱,因為軟弱的人不是這樣的。

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

假如你在醫院看到一個口鼻都插滿管子的病人,話都說不出來,那才是軟弱的人。 你不會看見他苛責別人。 只有當他身體好起來的時候,他才有力氣責怪別人,抱怨醫生護士,指責他的對頭和家人。 他力氣恢復了才開始對人說話帶刺。 當他真正虛弱的時候,什麼也說不出來,只是無助的躺在那。

那麼你是如何呢?你剛強嗎?只有剛強的人才會被打敗。 哥林多後書 12 章 9 節,我們看到上帝說「我的能力是在人的軟弱上得以完全。」這也是為什麼上帝要我們變得軟弱。 當我們與人爭論不休的時候,是軟弱還是剛強?那是太剛強。 而剛強的人就正是撒但喜歡攻擊的目標。 當爭執出現的時候,贏的總是撒但。 他當年就是這麼贏了夏娃的。 所以,神不要我們太剛強,反而該變得軟弱。

我們在拉撒路的故事也看到,主耶穌聽說了拉撒路病得快死了,卻說「我們再等等,然後再去見他。」主耶穌為什麼要這麼做?那是因為但凡拉撒路是病著沒死,就還存留一些氣力。 爾後他一天比一天更虛弱,一直到他死掉的那一刻,他才是完全的軟弱了,這時上帝才使他復活。 上帝為什麼要這麼做?為什麼要讓我們軟弱而後才能在我們身上動工?當約沙法在那樣的境地中說,「我們毫無能力,完全不知道該怎麼辦,然而我們的眼目單單仰望你,指望著你來為我們成就。」(歷代志下 20 章 12 節)爾後,神就有了作為。

世上的信徒可以分為三類。 請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

類!首先,是那些對自己非常有自信的,他們強壯聰明,瞭解《聖經》,或許又禱告又禁食,非常有能力,他們對自己的各方面能力都信心十足。或許也有不常常禱告禁食的,但總的來說,他們就是非常剛強,個性十足。這樣的信徒,是無法被神真正使用來成就永恆的。第二類信徒,他們對自己沒有信心,可是對神也沒有信心。或許他們會說,自己是軟弱無助的,是徹頭徹尾的罪人,可是同時,他們心裡也不相信神能為他們做任何事,或是通過他們做任何事,因為他們心裡覺得神不會做什麼。這樣的信徒對上帝來說也是無用的。第三類信徒,則是真的可以被神大大使用的,他們對自己毫無信心,而單單對神大有信心。他們如同約沙法,會說「我們沒有能力,也沒有智慧,但是主啊,我相信你。我不知道如何處理的境況,我相信你能處理好。」

請記住:僅僅承認自己軟弱是沒用的,我們還必須相信上帝。人非有信,就不能得神的喜悅。僅僅承認自己的腐化、無能和愚蠢,這不是謙卑,反而很可能說這話是出於疑惑和不信。主耶穌從來不說這樣的話,而祂卻是這世上從古至今最謙卑的人。

只有當人說,「主啊,我相信你。」我們才看到上帝透過站在那裡的一位先知說,「不要恐懼,這勝敗不在乎你們,乃在乎神。你們不要爭戰,只要擺陣站著,看你的主如何為你們施行拯救。」(歷代志下 20 章 15 節、17 節)只管站立不動,看著神如何作為:這話今天神在對誰說?就是在對那些說出,「主啊,我們軟弱,但我們相

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.

信你」這樣的人說的。上帝不會使他們失望,也不會使給他們恥辱。你知道嗎,羅馬書 9 章 33 節說到,「信靠祂的人,必不至於羞愧。」這是多麼美妙的經文啊!歷代志下 20 章,我們看到接下來他們開始讚美神,再然後,敵人被徹底消滅了。

我們還能從約拿書看到一個例子。約拿的故事你們都知道吧?他違背了上帝的旨意,並且逃跑了,逃上一條與神命令相反方向的船。結果上帝截住他,讓船上眾人把他丟進海裡。他剛被丟出去,就被一條大魚吞了。你看約拿書 1 章 17 節說,「耶和華安排一條大魚吞了約拿,他在魚腹中三日三夜。」《聖經》沒有告訴我們約拿這三日三夜幹了什麼。或許他想掙扎出魚腹,因為第 2 章 1 節,我們看到,這三日三夜後約拿開始禱告。

我們常常也是如此。當我們剛面對某種「魚腹」般的難題時,我們常常把自己關起來,開始的時候,並不會禱告。因為我們在試圖自己尋求出路,有時候甚至於花幾天或是幾個星期都有可能。而當一切都失敗以後,我們開始像約拿那樣禱告了。三天三夜他都沒有禱告,而是自己想盡辦法從魚嘴裡逃脫,卻只是一次次滑回來。爾後,他終於開始禱告了。就像我前面說過的,上帝等著我們走到自己的盡頭,是同樣的教訓。

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.

約拿接下來禱告了一次,一次,又一次。這裡有我們需要明白的另外一件事。最終在第 9 節,我們看到他開始感謝神。他說,「用感謝的聲音獻祭與你。」再接下來我們看到,第 10 節,主吩咐魚把約拿吐在旱地上。上帝是在什麼時候吩咐魚這麼做的?就是在約拿開始讚美神的時候。這是詩篇 50 章 23 節的應許:「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。」約拿書 2 章 9 節,說的也是同樣的。

我們再從使徒行傳 16 章來看最後一個例子。我們在這讀到使徒保羅和西拉被鎖在監獄裡。他們在監獄裡做了什麼?他們沒有睡大覺,也沒有抱怨發牢騷,反而是在禱告唱詩讚美神。使徒行傳 16 章 25-26 節,我們看到「當他們讚美神的時候,神打開了所有監獄的門」。這又一次是神應許的印證!

我親愛的朋友,打開所有魚口、所有監牢,和你所有困境的鑰匙都在神的手裡。假如你能開始讚美祂,不再抱怨,祂能打開每一扇門。奇跡在你用信心讚美祂時就會發生。