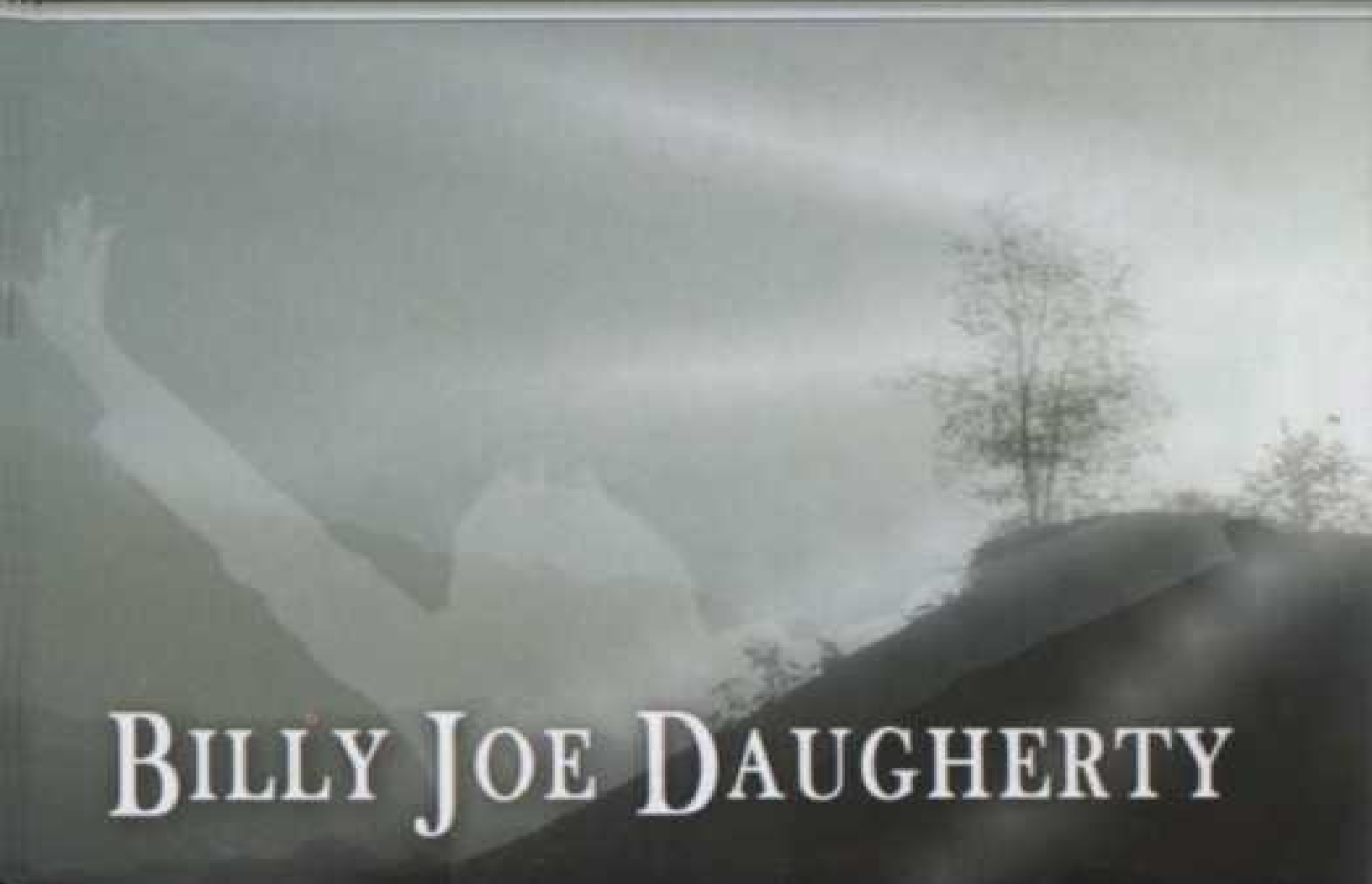
Praise & Thanksgiving



Billy Joe Daugherty

Praise and Thanksgiving

Keys to Victorious Living

By
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1
The Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Hebrews 13:15

Jesus opened the way to heaven for us. He removed the barrier between God and us so we can enter into His very presence. That's why Verse 15 says, "By Him," which means "By Jesus," we can go directly to God.

The writer of Hebrews says, "...Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God...." Offer means it is a willing deal. No one is going to make you praise the Lord. Praise that is forced upon you is not really praise. Offer means it is a free will offering.

Psalm 34:1 says, ”I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

Give Thanks

Ephesians 5:20 says, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

These three scripture references say that we are to offer praise and thanksgiving to the Lord continually, at all times, always. The fruit of our lips is to be offered up to the Lord as a continual sacrifice.

In the Old Testament, offerings were regularly given to the Lord. When people sinned, they had to offer a sacrifice. As I was thinking about it, I could just imagine them going continually to offer the innocent blood of animals to cover for their sin.

Aren't you glad the Lamb of God paid, once and for all, for our sin? But we are still in the offering business. We are still bringing sacrifices, but this time it's not a dead animal. It is living praise that we are to bring continually to God with the fruit of our lips.

The fruit of our lips means the words that we speak of what is in our hearts. Some people say, "I've got praise in my heart." If it is in your heart, it will come out of your mouth. The fruit, or the produce, of your lips are the words you speak in praise and thanksgiving to God.

2

Praise and Thanksgiving— Evidence of a Transformed Life

Praise and thanksgiving go together. Hebrews 13:15 talks about offering the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are used interchangeably. We need to have an attitude of gratitude, praising God and thanking Him on a continual basis.

Evidence of a transformed life is that praise and thanksgiving come out of our lips. When the men on death row at McAlester Prison are born again and baptized with the Holy Spirit, they lift their hands, bound in handcuffs, in praise to the Lord. I think about those guys locked in that little cell, some 10 or 12 feet wide and maybe 15 or 20 feet long. They are out one hour a day, and during that hour, they are isolated in a cage. They call it the dog run, where they simply go back and forth and get some exercise outside. They aren't allowed to be with anyone else.

Many of these men praise God in those cells day after day, yet there are others who are cursing, mad at the world and filled with hate. But when Christ comes in, He changes what's in their hearts from cursing to praise.

The Spirit of God within can give you revelation knowledge of God's Word that will fill your life with praise regardless of the circumstances. If men on death row can praise God, you certainly can do it where you are.

3
Taking On An Attitude of Gratitude

You need to take on an attitude of gratitude. You have more to praise God for than you do to complain about. Some say, "If you knew all my problems, you wouldn't be talking like that!" People with far worse problems than you have found a way to praise God. You can rejoice!

The way out of negative situations is not by rehearsing the bad things that have happened or the bad things that are against you. The way out of defeat, pressure, sickness and disease and problems in your marriage or in other relationships is to get your eyes back on Jesus! "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:2). Begin to praise and magnify God.

We are called to be a thankful people—to have an attitude of thanksgiving in our hearts at all times. I'm not talking about occasionally thanking God for something. I'm talking about being thankful as a lifestyle.

Thankfulness will change frowns into smiles. It will change depressed days into joyful ones. It will change a pessimistic attitude into one of optimism. It will turn lack into manifested blessings. It will turn confusion into peace. It will break through the works of darkness, causing God's light to abound. When you have an attitude of gratitude, things which you have lacked seem to find their way to you!

God provides many things for us which we often take for granted, such as our daily protection, deliverance and provision. We need to begin to thank God each day for His intimate care in these areas.

David gave thanks to God for His daily benefits.

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

Psalm 103:1-5

It is God's will to give you good things. We serve a good God. He is a God who lifts and gives. Psalm 84:11 says, "...No good thing will He withhold from

them that walk uprightly."

A thankful heart sets the stage for the manifested presence and power of God, which is more than enough to meet every need. Hallelujah!

Only one of the ten lepers who were healed apparently had an attitude of gratitude. Let's read this account in Luke 17:12-19:

And as he [Jesus] entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God.

And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

When a leper was cleansed, traditionally he was to go to his priest, have an examination to make sure he was cleansed and only then would he be restored to his village, home and family.

When Jesus said, "...Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?" He apparently expected them to give thanks. I believe Jesus is looking for people today who will respond to Him with gratitude.

Jesus said to the one who returned and gave thanks, "...Go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." Wholeness speaks of the complete man receiving the ministry that is needed. In this case, the leper was healed in his body; he was given soundness and peace of mind; and he received cleansing, forgiveness and righteousness in his spirit. Having a thankful heart is a key to being made whole.

4
In Everything Give Thanks

For what should you thank and praise God? First Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In every thing give thanks.... " You can thank God that Jesus has already paid for your sins. No matter what is going on around you, that fact always remains the same. He has already paid for your sins in full. You can thank God for all of His promises.

In everything give thanks. We don't thank God for what the devil does, but we thank Him that He is with us when the devil comes against us. We thank God He can get out of us what the devil put in us, get off of us what the devil put on us, and get back in us what the devil took out. Hallelujah!

First Corinthians 15:57 says, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." You ought to thank God for the victory in every situation you are facing. You may be saying, "I don't feel like thanking God for victory." Thank Him anyway. Your victory is not based upon your feelings. It is based upon what

Jesus has already done. Give thanks: "Lord, I thank You for the victory!"

Second Corinthians 2:14 says, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ..." "Lord, I thank You that I always triumph. I thank You for every promise. I thank You I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

You can take God's promises today, and start thanking Him that they belong to you and that they are working in your life. "Lord, I thank You that all things are working together for my good. I thank You that You have blessed me above all the people of the earth. I thank You I am the head and not the tail; I am above and not beneath. Thank You that goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life. I thank You that You are my Shepherd. I thank You that You have redeemed me. I thank You, Lord, that You cover me with Your divine protection. I am protected from all evil."

You can maintain a thankful heart by rehearsing the covenant promises you have been given as a child of God. Then, as you step into worship, praise and thanksgiving, your eyes will be opened to the solution for every challenge you face.

In the midst of sickness, thank God that you have a covenant with a

Healing God, Jehovah Rapha (or Rophe). He knows your name! Isaiah 53:4,5 says:

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

In the midst of apparent lack or need, thank God that you serve Jehovah Jireh, the God who provides. Philippians 4:19 says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

If a sense of unworthiness, fear, inferiority, condemnation, or guilt tries to come against you, boldly proclaim that you have a covenant with Jehovah Tsidkenu, who is your righteousness. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Thank God that He is Jehovah M'Kaddesh, your Sanctifier!

When you face an apparent defeat, boldly confess that you are linked up with Jehovah Nissi, the Lord who is your Victor and Banner. First John 4:4 says the Greater One dwells in you. First John 5:4,5 says you are a world overcomer!

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

In the midst of adverse circumstances and challenges, thank God that He is Jehovah Shalom, the Lord who is your peace. Ephesians 2:14 says that Christ is our peace. Second Thessalonians 3:16 says, "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means.... " Colossians

3:15 says, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Thank God you have a covenant with Jehovah Ra-ah (or Rohi), who is your Shepherd. Psalm 23 in The Living Bible says:

Because the Lord is my Shepherd,

I have everything I need!

He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the quiet streams. He gives me new strength. He helps me do what honors him the most.

Even when walking through the dark valley of death I will not be afraid, for

you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way.

You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my enemies. You have welcomed me as your guest; blessings overflow!

Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of my life, and afterwards I will live with you forever in your home.

Thank God that you are never alone, for you have a covenant *with Jehovah Shammah, the Lord who is present with you always.* Hebrews 13:5 says, "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Psalm 94:14 says, "For the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance." Deuteronomy 31:6 says, "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Begin to praise and thank God for who He is, and you will see the doors which Satan has shut in your face begin to open to you. The very circumstances which have blocked your way will begin to move. Thank God that your bills are paid. Thank Him that your needs are met. Thank Him for peace of mind. Thank Him for protection. Thank Him that His joy is yours. Thank Him for His eternal Word which never returns void but accomplishes exactly what it says. Thank God for who He is in your life.

As you develop an attitude of praise and thanksgiving as a lifestyle, revelation knowledge from God will flow into your life, bringing solutions to the challenges you are facing.

5
You Were Created to Praise

You were created to praise God. Isaiah 43:21 says, "This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise." First Peter 2:9 says, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light"

Isaiah 61:3 says God gives "...beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...."

Psalm 147:1 says, "Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." That means praise is becoming. It is appropriate. It fits you. You were designed for praise. You were made to "wear" the garment of praise like a fish was made for water, or like a bird was made for the air.

When you aren't in praise, you are out of your sphere of divinely appointed anointing! You were meant to soar in praise. You were created for it, formed for it and called to it. God equipped you to live in praise.

All of us have experienced times when we have had on certain clothes, and we say, "That just doesn't look like me! It doesn't fit." But when you put on praise, it fits!

Have you ever had someone say, "That color looks nice on you. That suit or dress really looks good on you"? But nothing fits you better than praise. People try to get matching colors and matching outfits, but there's nothing that matches the gifts and the abilities in your life better than the praises of God. You were called to praise. It's your style!

6
Protocol for Entering God's Presence

There is a protocol for entering God's presence, and that protocol is praise and thanksgiving!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100

Psalm 95:2 says, "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Philippians 4:6,7 in The Living Bible says:

Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don’t forget to thank him for his answers.

If you do this you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.

Some people come to God and say, "My name is Jimmy. Gimme, gimme, gimme." God says, "Come before My presence with praise and thanksgiving."

7

You Can Worry or You Can Praise

In 1975, the word of the Lord came to me that Sharon and I were to travel in ministry. God said He would open the doors of denominational churches for us to preach. In the interim, while we were still working as youth pastors, the Lord gave me a clear date to start traveling in ministry in January, 1976.

Thoughts of worry would come to my mind. "Where are you going to go? Who are you going to preach to? Who are you going to minister to?" God said to me, "Start thanking Me that you have more places to go than you have time to go."

I had just heard Mark 11:24 down inside of my spirit that I should believe that I receive the moment I pray: "Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

I said, "Lord, I believe that I receive those things that I am praying for, and I thank You that I have them." As those thoughts of worry tried to come back at me, I'd say, "Lord, I thank You that I have more places to go than I have time to go."

God performed His Word, and we had more places to go than we had time to go.

You can worry or you can praise. You can be concerned or you can give thanks. There is something to worry about every minute of your life if you don't walk in faith. But if you walk in faith and move out of fear, there is something to praise God for all the time. Thanksgiving and praise can become a lifestyle for you.

8
Praise Releases God’s Strength and Power

Praise releases the power of God and destroys the work of the enemy. Matthew 21:16 says, "...Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise." In other places, perfected is translated "prepared." Jesus quoted from Psalm 8:2, which says, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength, because of their enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger."

Let's put Psalm 8:2 and Matthew 21:16 together: GOD PREPARED PRAISE FOR HIS PEOPLE THAT WE WOULD RELEASE HIS STRENGTH, STOP THE ENEMY, AND STILL THE AVENGER.

Every time you praise God, you stop the work of the devil. Every time you praise God, you release the blessings of the Lord. What happens when you complain, criticize, ridicule and get bitter? Exactly the opposite goes into operation.

Nehemiah 8:10 says, "...the joy of the Lord is your strength." Praise, joy and strength go together. Praise is strength to stop the enemy and to release the blessings of God. God meets those who rejoice and praise Him. He is drawn to it. The Father seeks those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth. He is looking for the praisers and worshippers!

Some people have said, "I'm trying to reach God." If you will start praising God, He will find your number. He will get to you when you live in an attitude of continual praise and thanksgiving.

Other people have said, "I don't have anything to praise God about." Take the Bible and start praising Him for His Word. What He has spoken will then become a reality in your life. Move from your circumstances, your feelings, world opinions and economic conditions to what God says in His Word.

Paul and Silas were illegally imprisoned and beaten. They should have gone through a trial. All Paul did was cast the devil out of a demon-possessed, fortune-telling young girl. Because of it, her owners, who were making money off of her, had Paul and Silas thrown into prison. They weren't imprisoned because they did something wrong.

At midnight, the darkest hour, the pain was severe, no medication, beaten, locked in chains, and Paul said to Silas, "Come on, let's sing!"

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s bands were loosed.

Acts 16:25,26

Even if you can't carry a tune in a wash tub, you can sing praises to God. The dogs may howl with you, but you can praise God! Paul and Silas began to praise God. As a result, an earthquake shook the prison.

When the devil has you locked up, locked down, or beaten, and it looks like there is no way out, start praising God and you will come out of that situation.

Everyone's bands were loosed, and the prison doors flew open. Your prison doors will fly open, too, when you begin to praise God, because God ordained praise to release His strength to stop the enemy and still the avenger.

9
Praise Will Reverse Your Circumstances

The enemy was coming toward Paul and Silas, and he was stopped. Suddenly, the whole thing reversed! The jailer came in, and he was going to kill himself because he knew he would be killed anyway when all the prisoners escaped. Instead, Paul led the jailer and his family to Jesus Christ. (Read Acts 16:27-34.)

When it looks the darkest, if you will praise God, you can turn your situation around for a revival.

The children of Judah were surrounded by three enemy armies. They didn't know what to do. Jehoshaphat, their leader, rehearsed some previous victories which came as a result of God's deliverance, and then he prayed: "...we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee" (2 Chronicles 20:12).

The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel, the prophet, and he said:

...Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you,

O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you.

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:15-18

They were outnumbered, but they started praising God, saying:

...Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Chronicles 20:21

As they worshipped the Lord, the most amazing thing happened.

And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments

against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

2 Chronicles 20:22

You may say, "I have failed. I have missed it." Then praise the Lord that His mercy endures forever!

When Jehoshaphat's people began to sing and praise the Lord for His mercy, the enemy turned on themselves and began to fight each other.

As Jehoshaphat and his people stood and watched, the battle was won in a matter of a few minutes. Then they were able to chase down all the enemy.

And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

2 Chronicles 20:22,23

Praise is ordained by God to release His strength, to still the enemy, and stop the avenger. It will work in your life, too.

10
It’s Time to Magnify the Lord

It is time to praise and magnify the Lord.

And when he [Jesus] was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.

And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

Luke 19:37-40

Are you going to be outdone by a bunch of

There is an end to all the long night of suffering and torment you have experienced in the name of Jesus. Receive the anointing of God. Be healed and set free in Jesus' name.

Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, I repent of all sin. I let go of all bitterness and all offenses. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son and that He died, was buried, resurrected and ascended unto You, winning every skirmish with Satan that I'll ever face. I believe He did it just for me! Therefore, I receive You today, Lord Jesus, as my personal Lord and Savior.

In the name of Jesus, I put off the spirit of heaviness and put on the garment of praise as a daily lifestyle. I will praise You in the morning, at noon, at night and in between, Lord! I will maintain a continual heart of gratitude.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for keeping me by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit,

I am empowered to live an overcoming, joyous, victorious life, bringing glory to You, Lord Jesus, every day that I live.

Thank You, Father, that because of Jesus, I have a destiny and a purpose which will draw others into Your Kingdom. Hallelujah!

(Signature) _____

(Date) _____



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