THE POWER OF PRAISE – PART 2.


“Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

6 And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.

7 And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD.
And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.

And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.
And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”

Last week I started on a message “The Power of Praise” which I would want to conclude today – I really sense in my heart that in these tough times our hearts must be tuned to PRAISING GOD.

Praising God at this time when so many of you are going through tough times is the sure way to attract God’s intervention in your situation.
Ladies and gentlemen, I know I am speaking to people right here in Church and those watching across East and Central Africa who are going through difficult times – a midnight season like Paul and Silas, but even in that midnight season the only solution that the Spirit is giving us is praise.

*Exodus 15:11* declares that “God is fearful in praises”.

When you lift up praises unto God you are making an invitation to Jehovah Sabaoth to fight on your behalf.

When you come into the arena of praise and reject the invitation to murmur and complain you enter into the arena of God fighting your battles on your behalf.

Your enemies are permanently disarmed and completely frustrated when you choose to praise God, Jehovah comes into the scene and fights your enemy.

I told you last Sunday that what the enemy is after is your joy because he knows that the joy of the Lord is your strength.
The enemy knows that when you lose your joy you lose your strength and so he will throw everything at you so that you lose your joy and then have no strength to fight the good fight of faith.

But you must surprise that devil by saying “I don’t care what I am going through God is still worthy of my praise” and you go ahead and give God praise.

Ladies and gentlemen, when you have reached your end and there is nowhere to turn then you must turn to God but for God to turn to you, you must give Him praise.

Brethren don’t wait until things are wonderful and honky dorey and smooth for you to praise God. NO!

Right now when things are going crazy, all hell has broken loose, right now when the auctioneers are threatening and lawyers are on your case.

Right now when you have received bad news from the doctors.

You need to lift up a sacrifice of praise that lets God know that you do not praise Him just in good times but in all times because He is worthy to be praised.
Now, I am not saying that you are not in pain; I am not saying that you are not hurting; I am not saying that your heart is not broken BUT in it all your PRAISE is the key that will unlock God’s presence and His intervention in your situation.

The Bible declares in Hebrews 13:15 “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.”

A sacrifice is something that is costly and expensive but yet when you do it, it doesn’t go unnoticed by God.

We looked at some things that happen when we praise God.

We said last Sunday that praise is a catalyst for new beginnings.

We also said praise releases creativity and productivity.

We also declared that praise attracts divine provision.

We also said that praise gives us strength for tough times.
And allow me to add something on this one – I want you to understand that no matter what you are going through, you are not the first one to go through it- someone else somewhere in this universe has gone through it and conquered.

Now if someone else went through it and came out victorious even you – YES you shall come out of it victorious “THIS TOO SHALL PASS.”

No wonder Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

If God allowed it to come to you it is because HE knows you can handle it.

So just praise Him anyhow and finally we said that God is pleased by our praise because we were created to praise God.

The Bible says in Isaiah 43:21 “This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.”

You were created to praise God – you might not sing in key, you might not dance in tune, you might not have a guitar or a drum set
but your hands must praise Him, your feet must praise Him, your voice must praise Him.

1 Peter 2:9 says “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an Holy Nation, a peculiar people that you should SHOW FORTH THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO HATH CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT.”

God created you to show forth His praises.

That is what Paul and Silas understood – that yes it is midnight, yes it is dark, yes it is cold, yes we are bleeding from the beating but we will still sing praises to the Lord most High.

The Bible says they as they sang praises suddenly there was an earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were shaken.

And immediately the prison doors were opened and the chains loosened.

Ladies and gentlemen your freedom is located in your next praise.

Don’t be too dignified that you cannot praise God, don’t be too dignified that you cannot dance before Him.
Now, don’t just praise God when you come to church, praise is to be a consistent lifestyle – you should praise God.

It may be just clapping and singing a simple song but that pleases God.

_Seven dimensions of praise._

1. **Halal.**

Halal is a primary Hebrew root word for praise. Our word "hallelujah" comes from this base word. It means "to be clear, to shine, to boast, show, to rave, celebrate, to be clamorously foolish."

Ps 113:1-3 Praise (halal) ye the Lord, praise (halal) o ye servants of the Lord, praise (halal) the name of the Lord.

Ps 150:1 Praise (halal) the Lord! Praise (halal) God in his sanctuary; Praise (halal) him in his mighty expanse.

Ps 149:3 Let them praise (halal) his name in the dance: let them sing praises with the timbrel and harp.

Halal dimension is the dimension of praise where we praise in abandonment without caring what people will say.

Halal is the root word for Halelujah.
2. Yadah.

2Chr 8:14 - And he appointed, according to the order of David his father, the courses of the priests to their service, and the Levites to their charges, to praise and minister before the priests, as the duty of every day required: the porters also by their courses at every gate: for so had David the man of God commanded.

Ezra 3:10 - And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.

Ps 22:22 - I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

Ps 63:5 - My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

Ps 69:30 - I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Yadah is a verb with a root meaning, "the extended hand, to throw out the hand, therefore to worship with extended hand." According to the Lexicon, the opposite meaning is "to bemoan, the wringing of the hands."

2Chr 20:21 Givethanks (yadah) to the Lord, for his lovingkindness is everlasting.

Ps 63:1 So I will bless thee as long as I live; I will (yadah) lift up my hands in thy name.
Ps 107:15 Oh that men would praise (yadah) the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.

Yadah dimension is the dimension of celebrating God’s acts of salvation and glorifying His name.

Yadah is found in scriptures primarily in public rituals and worship.

3. Towdah.

Towdah comes from the same principle root word as yadah, but is used more specifically. Towdah literally means, "an extension of the hand in adoration, avowal, or acceptance." By way of application, it is apparent in the Psalms and elsewhere that it is used for thanking God for "things not yet received" as well as things already at hand.

Ps 50:14 Offer unto God praise (towdah) and pay thy vows unto the Most High.

Ps 50:23 Whoso offereth praise (towdah) glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

This dimension carries with it the concept of praise and thanksgiving as a sacrifice to God.

Towdah is the result of a conscious choice that takes us beyond our feelings and preferences.

In this dimension we praise God no matter what is going on in our lives and no matter how uncomfortable we are - it is a sacrifice, an offering that tells God we love Him so much to be quiet – we must praise.
4. Shabach.

Shabach means, "to shout, to address in a loud tone, to command, to triumph."

Ps 47:1 O clap your hands, all peoples; shout (shabach) to God with the voice of joy (or triumph).

Ps 145:4 One generation shall praise (shabach) thy works to another and declare thy mighty acts.

Isa 12:6 Cry aloud and shout (shabach) for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

This is the dimension of PRAISE where we shout with a loud voice of triumph.

5. Barak.

Barak means "to kneel down, to bless God as an act of adoration."

Ps 95:6 O come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel (barak) before the Lord our maker.

1Chr 29:20 Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless (barak) the Lord your God." And all the assembly blessed (barak) the Lord, the God of their fathers, and bowed low and did homage to the Lord and to the king.

Ps 34:1 I will bless (barak) the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
Barak dimension carries with it a sense of hushed expectancy that comes as a result of the Holy Ghost filling the praise with God’s presence.

Most of the time our praise ends in worship and this is the Barak dimension as we kneel down as an act of adoration.


Zamar means "to pluck the strings of an instrument, to sing, to praise; a musical word which is largely involved with joyful expressions of music with musical instruments.

Ps 21:13 Be exalted O Lord, in Thine own strength, so will we sing and praise (zamar) Thy power.

1Chr 16:9 Sing to Him, sing praises (zamar) to Him; speak of all His wonders.

Ps 57:8-9 Awake my glory; awake harp and lyre, I will awaken the dawn! I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord among the peoples; I will sing praises (zamar) to Thee among the nations.

Zamar dimension is the music dimension where we play skillfully.

7. Tehillah.

Tehillah is derived from the word halal and means "the singing of halals, to sing or to laud; perceived to involve music, especially singing; hymns of the Spirit.

Ps 22:3 Yet Thou art holy, O Thou who art enthroned upon the praises (tehillah) of Israel.
Ps 33:1 Rejoice in the Lord, o ye righteous, for praise (tehillah) is comely for the upright.

Isa 61:3 To grant to those who mourn in Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise (tehillah) instead of the spirit of fainting, So they shall be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

This dimension of praises flows from each individual believer and cannot be learned or duplicated.

This is where a believer releases unpremeditated utterances and songs inspired by the Holy Spirit as HE, the Holy Spirit worships through us.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14:15 “I will pray with my spirit but I will also pray with my mind, I will sing with my spirit but I will also sing with my mind.”