

The Power of Praise and Thanksgiving

- I. **“As the deer pants for streams of water” so every human soul pants for the presence of God whether they know it or not (Psalm 42:1-2). When we come to know Jesus, we are born into a profound awareness of God (John 3:3).**
 - A. When we give praise and thanksgiving to God, a deep sense of God’s presence comes into our lives. According to the Scripture, we can enter His “gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise” (Psalm 100:4).
 - B. In this time of distress, many are struggling mentally and emotionally to make contact with God.
 - C. One reason, is because we’re praying serious prayers and then sometimes feel worse than before we started praying. A simple protocol with God is being missed. Asking for things from God is so much easier from a place of thanksgiving and praise. We are more in touch with God’s presence when we begin our prayers with “hallowed be Your name”, as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:9.

- II. **Thanksgiving and praise to God are weapons of warfare that the Holy Spirit uses to bring breakthrough. Our part is to affirm with our mouths and actions the surpassing greatness of God and His Son’s victory over our enemies.**
 - A. The peace of God is able to transcend all understanding and guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:4-7).
 - B. Also, there are tangible breakthroughs in our circumstances. We see examples of these breakthroughs all throughout Scripture.
 1. The victory of Paul and Silas in Philippi (Acts 16:22-34)—This is the backdrop for Philippians 4:4-7. Paul also says something similar in I Thessalonians 5:16-18, “This is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” And it works.
 2. Thanksgiving and praise to God is a normal part of breakthrough, whether before, during, or after a miracle. Jesus commends the leper in Luke 17:11-19 for his faith after he gave thanks for the miracle he received.

- III. **There are also powerful examples of praise and thanksgiving in other parts of the Bible.**
 - A. “Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, and call on Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me” (Psalm 50:14-15).
 - B. Example of Joshua and the fall of Jericho (Joshua 6:6-16, 20).
 - C. The story of Jehoshaphat (II Chronicles 20:1-4, 12-29).

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