

Praising God in the Storms of Life

1. The Power of Praise in Trials

Praise unlocks God's Power in your situation because it shifts the focus from you and what you're going through to Him and His power to intervene.

Praise encompasses all parts of your being, your body, your mind and your spirit.

1 Peter 5:7 (ESV) *Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

Psalms 34:1 (ESV) *I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

Psalms 42:11 (NLT) *Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!*

Psalms 147:1 (MSG) *Hallelujah! It's a good thing to sing praise to our God; praise is beautiful, it's fitting.*

Example: Paul and Silas in prison (Acts 16:25-26) - Their midnight praise led to a miraculous jailbreak, showcasing the power of worship in dire situations.

2. Faithful Worship in the Midst of Storms

Consistency and faithfulness in our lifestyle of Praise and Worship is important. We don't just Praise when we are happy and feeling grateful. We faithfully praise at all times.

Praise will lift the heaviness and the burden off of you.

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV) *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (ESV) *Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.*

Romans 8:28 (NLT) *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

Philippians 4:6-7 (MSG) *Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.*

Example: Job's unwavering faith (Job 1:20-22) - Despite his immense suffering, Job chose to worship God, illustrating true faith in the storm.

3. Praise Precedes the Miracle

2 Chronicles 20:21 (ESV) *And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army. "Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever."*

Joshua 6:20 (NLT) *When the people heard the sound of the ram's horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it.*

Psalms 100:4 (MSG) *Enter with the password: Thank you! Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him and worship him.*

Example: The fall of Jericho (Joshua 6) - The Israelites praised God before the walls fell, showcasing that praise can lead to miraculous outcomes.

Media: Praise you in this storm - Video

4. Praise as a Weapon Against Fear

Psalms 30:11-12 (ESV) *You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, ¹² that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!"*

Psalms 42:5 (ESV) *Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.*

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) *Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.*

Psalms 56:3 (MSG) *When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you.*

Example: The story of Horatio Spafford - After a major loss in a fire and losing his 4 daughters in a shipwreck, he wrote "It Is Well With My Soul," expressing deep faith and praise amidst unimaginable loss. This resonates strongly with today's theme, "Praise You in This Storm."

Offering: As we reflect on the powerful truth that our praise can lift burdens and replace heaviness, let's remember that giving is also an act of worship. Just as we pour out our hearts in praise during our trials, we can express our gratitude and obedience to God through our tithes and offerings.

II Corinthians 9:7 (ESV) *'Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'*

When we give, we acknowledge that everything we have comes from God, and we trust Him to provide for our needs, especially during challenging times. Today, as we prepare to receive our offering, let's take a moment to reflect on God's faithfulness in our lives. Let our giving be a joyful response to His goodness, a way to express our gratitude and faith. Just as we have praised Him in our storms, let's also honor Him with our resources, knowing that He can use our gifts to further His kingdom and bring hope to others.