

# PRAISE THAT INVADES HELL AND EXCITES HEAVEN

## Introduction:

A pastor was driving to an important meeting, when suddenly his car broke down. He asked a local farmer for help to he could get to this meeting.

The farmer replied that all he had was a horse. As he'd ridden a horse "back in the day", the pastor agreed to accept the offer. It was then that the farmer explained that this horse was special – it was a "holy" horse.

"you have to say 'Praise the Lord' to make it go," he explained, "and 'amen' to make it stop." The pastor thought that shouldn't be a problem! Off he went, riding the horse.

About a kilometer down the road, the horse was spooked by a snake, and started galloping towards a huge cliff. "STOP!" yelled the pastor. In his panic, he had forgotten the code word for this horse!

Nothing was working, so the pastor entered into a long, repenting prayer to God, ending with a fervent "AMEN!" Immediately the horse stopped – right at the edge of the cliff.

Amazed at God's answer to his humble prayer, the pastor shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD!"

- Definition of "Praise":
  - Ascription of value or worth
  - Real conviction of worth
  - Warm approval or respect
  - Gratitude towards

**Psalm 22:3** *"Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned in the praise of Israel."*

- Different translations use the words God inhabits / dwells / is enthroned in the praises of His people.

- What does that look like?

## 1. Praise Builds Security

**Psalm 100:4-5** *Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. for the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

- How do you praise God in your circumstances?
  - Thank Him for what you have.
  - Praise Him for who He is
  - Praise because His love endures
  - Praise that His faithfulness continues.

ILLUSTRATION:<sup>1</sup>

In May 2000, we had just found out that our baby had just died in my womb. I was shattered and heartbroken hearted; the agony of that moment was indescribable. It was an awful and terrible loss. [My husband and I] had taken separate cars to the doctor, so I had to drive back to the house by myself, with my husband following me. I felt the depth of my sadness would become too heavy to bear, when I heard the Holy Spirit whisper, “*Sing!*”

In that moment it was the absolute last thing I wanted to do. SING? I couldn’t think of anything I felt less like doing. But again I heard the Holy Spirit say, “*Sing!*”

After years of learning it is much better to obey quickly, I started to sing. My head didn’t sing, and I do not even know if my heart sang, but my soul sang. It was almost involuntary. I sang two songs. The first song I heard coming out of my mouth was the hymn “*then sings my soul, my Saviour*

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<sup>1</sup>from “*Extravagant Worship*” by Darlene Zschech (Bethany House 2001)

*God to Thee, how great Thou art...*”, which really surprised me, as this was a song we sang at my father’s funeral.

The second song was one I had written years before called *“I will bless You, Lord.”* The chorus says: *“How my soul cries out to You, O God; I will bless you, Lord...”* again, even though my thoughts were full of despair, the core of my being, my soul, was singing rather than my intellect.

By the time I got home, something had definitely transpired in the spiritual realm. I had spoken many times on the power of worshipping through a trial. I had done this myself in varying degrees, but never before had I experienced the power of God so sovereignly fulfilling his promise to *“heal the broken hearted and bind up their wounds.”* (Psalm 147:3) The sweet presence of our glorious Saviour placed me on the way to personal healing and victory.

## **2. Praise Brings Freedom**

**Acts 16:25** *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them...*

- They were praying and singing ... in prison!
- You can have freedom in a prison cell

## **3. Praise Breaks Intimidation**

**Psalm 95:1-3** *Come let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song. For the Lord is the Great God, the great King above all gods.*

- Shout aloud (like a war cry)
  - A rallying cry
- We sing because He is great
  - We are under His care

#### 4. Praise Breaks the Power of Fear

**2 Chronicles 20:21-22** *After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise Him for the splendour of His holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying “Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever.”*

*As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.*

- Praise builds faith
- Praise brings peace
- Praise brings confusion to the enemy

#### 5. Praise Releases God’s Manifest Presence

**2 Chronicles 5:13-14** *The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: “He is good” His love endures forever.”*

*Then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.*

- This cloud was not a smoke machine!
- God’s presence was so strong / weighty that people could not perform.

## Conclusion:

**Isaiah 12** *In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.*

*<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation."*

*<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

*<sup>4</sup> In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.*

*<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.*

*<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."*