**Spiritual Warfare: Praise & Worship**

**(September 9, 2018, by Rev. Anthony Menzel)**

Praise and worship is critical in spiritual warfare…

In order to remain strong spiritually, you cannot just ask God for things; you also have to thank Him for what He has already done for you…

Scripture 1: **Nehemiah 8:10**

**10**Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this* day *is* holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

We get our strength from walking in God’s joy…

Scripture 2: **Psalm 16:11**

You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

We get God’s joy by being in God’s Presence…

Scripture 3: **Psalm 22:3**

But You *are* holy,  
Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

We get in God’s Presence by praising Him…

We repent to remove any barriers to our praise…

Scripture 4: **Isaiah 59:2**

But your iniquities have separated you from your God;  
And your sins have hidden *His* face from you,  
So that He will not hear.

Then we praise God to get into His Presence…

Sometimes we are going to feel sad or angry, but the Lord Jesus does not want us to stay feeling bad…

Scripture 5: **Psalm 30:5**

For His anger *is but for* a moment,  
His favor *is for* life;  
Weeping may endure for a night,  
But [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+30%3A5-6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-14325a)]joy *comes* in the morning.

The key to feeling better is to praise the Holy Trinity, no matter what you are going through or how you are feeling…

Scripture 6: **Habakkuk 3:17-19**

Though the fig tree may not blossom,  
Nor fruit be on the vines;  
Though the labor of the olive may fail,  
And the fields yield no food;  
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,  
And there be no herd in the stalls—  
**18**Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,  
I will joy in the God of my salvation.

**19**[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Habakkuk+3%3A17-19&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-22788a)]The Lord God is my strength;  
He will make my feet like deer’s *feet,*  
And He will make me walk on my high hills.

What are some of the ways we praise the Trinity?

Our welcome bulletin tells visitors to our church many of the different ways the Bible tells us how to praise…

“In addition to singing, the congregation is welcome to engage in any expression of musical worship that is biblical. Therefore, our worship enthusiastically shows our deep love for the Lord. During faster songs, clapping, playing tambourines, dancing, and shouting are regular facets of our worship. During quieter, slower songs, we often raise our hands, which is a symbol of surrender to God. Speaking in tongues, the operation of other spiritual gifts, and spontaneous singing and praising are also encouraged.”

We will go over Scriptural references for each of these ways to praise the Lord…

Clapping, shouting, and singing…

Scripture 7: **Psalm 47:1-7**

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!  
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!  
**2**For the Lord Most High *is* awesome;  
*He is* a great King over all the earth.  
**3**He will subdue the peoples under us,  
And the nations under our feet.  
**4**He will choose our inheritance for us,  
The excellence of Jacob whom He loves. *Selah*

**5**God has gone up with a shout,  
The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.  
**6**Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
**7**For God *is* the King of all the earth;  
Sing praises with understanding.

Dancing; jumping; playing instruments, including tambourines…

Scripture 8: **2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-17, 20-23**

Again David gathered all *the* choice *men* of Israel, thirty thousand. **2**And David arose and went with all the people who *were* with him from [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-8160a)]Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-8160b)]by the Name, the Lord of Hosts, who dwells *between* the cherubim. **3**So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which *was* on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-8161c)]cart. **4**And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which *was* on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. **5**Then David and all the house of Israel played *music* before the Lord on all kinds of *instruments of* fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.

**6**And when they came to Nachon’s threshing floor, Uzzah put out *his hand* to the ark of God and [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-8164d)]took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. **7**Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for *his* [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-8165e)]error; and he died there by the ark of God. **8**And David became angry because of the Lord’s outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-8166f)]Perez Uzzah to this day.

**9**David was afraid of the Lord that day; and he said, “How can the ark of the Lord come to me?” **10**So David would not move the ark of the Lord with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. **11**The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.

**12**Now it was told King David, saying, “The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that *belongs* to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. **13**And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. **14**Then David danced[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-8172g)] before the Lord with all *his* might; and David *was* wearing a linen ephod. **15**So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

**16**Now as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. **17**So they brought the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. **18**And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. **19**Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece *of meat,* and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

**20**Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, “How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-8178h)]shamelessly uncovers himself!”

**21**So David said to Michal, “*It was* before the Lord, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel. Therefore I will play *music* before the Lord. **22**And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.”

**23**Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

Lifting up hands…

Scripture 9: **Psalm 134**

Behold, bless the Lord,  
All *you* servants of the Lord,  
Who by night stand in the house of the Lord!  
**2**Lift up your hands *in* the sanctuary,  
And bless the Lord.

**3**The Lord who made heaven and earth  
Bless you from Zion!

Singing in tongues…

Scripture 10: **1 Corinthians 14:14-15**

**14**For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. **15**What is *the conclusion* then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

Bowing down to the ground during praise and worship is also Biblical…

Scripture 11: **2 Chronicles 20:2-3, 13-19, 21-23, 28-30**

It happened after this *that* the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and *others* with them besides the Ammonites,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-11589a)] came to battle against Jehoshaphat. **2**Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-11590b)]Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar” (which *is* En Gedi). **3**And Jehoshaphat feared, and set [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-11591c)]himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. **4**So Judah gathered together to ask *help*from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

**5**Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, **6**and said: “O Lord God of our fathers, *are* You not God in heaven, and do You *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand *is there not* power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? **7***Are* You not our God, *who* drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? **8**And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, **9**‘If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name *is* in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.’ **10**And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them— **11**here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. **12**O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes *are* upon You.”

**13**Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord.

**14**Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. **15**And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle *is* not yours, but God’s. **16**Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-11604d)]brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. **17**You will not *need* to fight in this *battle.* Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord *is* with you.”

**18**And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. **19**Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with voices loud and high.

**20**So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” **21**And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:

“Praise the Lord,  
For His mercy *endures* forever.”

**22**Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. **23**For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy *them.* And when they [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-11611e)]had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

**24**So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there *were* their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

**25**When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-11613f)]dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much. **26**And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-11614g)]Berachah, for there they blessed the Lord; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day. **27**Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them rejoice over their enemies. **28**So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the Lord. **29**And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of *those* countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. **30**Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

In this passage we see that God will often give us the victory when we praise Him, especially when we are praising Him in spite of difficult circumstances…