* THE POWER OF PRAISE PART 2

Continuing from last week message:

* **What are the obstacles to praise in a person's life, or in a church?** if praise is not as it should be, if we're not blossoming in our soul toward God or in fellowship it is because of the obstacles:
* **We have tradition**: Not all the traditions are bad, but sometimes we have traditions that came into the church but would not be found in the Bible. But they have almost been given scriptural status and authority and they block us from praising God…………. If we look at the church story, we will find that every generation has a way of praising God in music and songs that is particular to the time and circumstance. But it changes with generation…………...
* Taste and preference are obstacles to praise.

1. **We have some obstacles of praise.**

**- Self-centeredness** Now self-love may lead us to prayer. Understand what I mean and analyze our own prayers: it's a battle even to get on our knees at times to pray to God. But sometimes when we do get down to prayer, all we pray about is ourselves. Self-love can lead us to prayer, but it is our love for God that will lead us to praise with spirit soul and body.

Love for God lead to forgetfulness of self, and it is spiritual health. **Thomas Watson,** the puritan**, said**: “In praying we act like men, in praising we act like angels.” If there is too much self-centeredness, we may not get to the power of praise.

* **Fear of man** is a huge barrier to the power of praise. The wise man in Proverbs 29: 5a said: “Fear of man brings a snare,” it is an entrapment. If you have a spirit of praise inside you that you cannot express because of the fear of what other people will think of you, you're trapped - that's what the word of God says. But what kind of trap we are talking about here?

1. **We have tradition:** if we look at the history of the church, we will find that every or each generation has a way of praising God in music and songs that is particular to that generation. Not all traditions are bad. But some of them block us from freely and biblically praising God. Isaiah (29: 13) ……….

**THE DEVIL’S MALICE BLOCKS HUMANS FROM PRAISING GOD…**

* We are trapped by self-centeredness, umbilical tradition limiting us on praising God freely, personal preference and taste…We are called to resist the devil and break the vase to let the oil of praising flow before God, the Kings of Kings. The 24 elders took away their crowns to praise God both day and night. If we praise God earnestly with soul, spirit and heart, we will see the power of God in our lives and around us.

**Things that praise can do.**

* First, praise accelerates answers to prayer.
* Praise encourages the miraculous. In Acts chapter 16: 25-26 “…midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose.” There was a connection between their praising, singing, praying and the miracle! The power of praise leads the chains to fall.
* Jericoh walls fell when the people of Israel were praising God. “When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so, everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.” Joshua(6: 20).

1. **What is the wall that we want to break, in this country, city, and lives?**

* The Bible story tells us that God heard the praises of His people, God heard the songs of their faith, and the walls were broken. How about us? Do we see walls that need to be broken before us or around us?
* Let us ask ourselves, how is our praise? Is it in whole person, spirit, soul, and body? Is it exciting, joyful praise, enthusiastic praise, exuberant praise? For if we could only get through to God in our praise, we could change situations that are troubling us…... The Bible story tells us that God heard the praises of His people, God heard the songs of their faith, and the enemy was destroyed. “**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.” (2 Chronicles 20: 22). Praise gives victory.**
* **Praise drives the devil away.**

Praise, that is right, drives the devil away! Jesus said, “Away Satan for it is written that you shall only worship your God alone. The devil left”…. same thing in 1Samuel (16:23) “Whenever **the evil spirit** from god came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play.” **Then relief would come to Saul**; he **would feel better**, and the **evil spirit would leave him.** Remember that the devil is allergic to praise. We drive the devil away by praising God. Where there is honest praise, the devil is powerless.

1. **How is your soul this morning, how are you mentally, emotional, social, spiritual doing? Is there something troubling you?**

**Praise heals the soul and calms the troubled spirit.** We don't just praise God for God's benefit but for us. If praising is rejoicing, celebration, singing……. then the medicine of emotional, spiritual, social, and mental trouble is praise to God. We should not wait to be happy before we praise God but by praising God, God will fulfil our needs in all. “Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again rejoice’’ (Philippians 4: 4)

1. **Do we have victory in our life, church, society, country?** Let us look around us in the world, in our society, church, life, workplace ………what is happening? Maybe we do not see it, or we see it but do not know that it is the devil working around us and we need to act. We as Christians have power to control and change the world because the serve the most powerful God. But our excuses and justification and unwillingness of praising and serving God in truth and spirit makes us powerless in changing of the situations. The less we praise God the more we praise the devil and the more his power takes over. The more we praise God, the more God’s power gives us victory. We need to stop complaining about things that are not right and take action that will lead to change.

**Conclusion**

**Praise** brings an entrance into God's presence. **Praise** **heals** the soul and calms the troubled spirit, gives us victory, accelerates the answer of our prayers, breaks down the walls and loose chains. It drives the devil away. It wins battles. It encourages the miraculous. Now that they have learned the importance and power of praise, let us stop being centered on ourselves, pride, using excuses and unbiblical tradition that block our praise from being effective. But look at God as the King of kings, the majesty, the Holy one who has by his power created us to be who we are. God is calling us to read, listen to the Bible in which God is calling us to praise him earnestly and wholly in all with all and through all.