

Pastor Ron Case
11/16/14

“Praise Pivot”

“And from the throne came a voice saying, “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.” (Revelation 19:5)

Active Praise – Turning the Tide

2 Chronicles 20:10-17 – (10) “And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— (11) behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. (12) O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.’ (13) Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. (14) “And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel...a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. (15) And he said, ‘Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s. (16) Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. (17) You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you.”

2 Chronicles 20:21-24 – (21) “And when [Jehoshaphat] 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, and say, ‘Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever.’ (22) And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. (23) For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another. (24) When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped.”

<p>Key Point: Praise Redirects our focus from the Hordes to the Lord</p>

Passive Praise – Fortified Inside

Psalm 40:1-3 – (1) “I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. (2) He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. (3) He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God...”

Isaiah 61:1-3 – (1) “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; (2) to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; (3) to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.”

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Do I tend to praise God or give more credibility to present circumstances? Focus on the Hordes or the Lord?

Do I realize that in times of weakness, guilt, shame or confusion, I can come to the Lord and He will help me to praise Him?

Do praise and warfare go hand in hand? (Psalm 149:5-9)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)