

BOLD FAITH IN EVERYTHING, PRAISE GOD!

New reports of violent and unrestrained aggression in the world to date inform us of situations that we never thought could happen. It is imperative for Christians to deepen our relationship in the Lord, and to walk out and trust in His Word. We must mature in faith—expand our faith, and as overcomers, throw the proverbial *monkey wrench* into the enemy's plans. For this to work, we need to walk in *bold faith*. I, for one, am sold on *bold faith*.

Throughout the 40+ years that I have served the Lord, I have stood upon His Word in *bold faith* and have seen miracle after miracle released upon God's children. This is not the time to be wishy, washy Christians. It is the time to release boldness, walk in obedience and hold tight to godly confidence. God's children *can* and *should* shout His praises in the face of adversity, illness, discouragement, disappointments, and needs. Know this; God *does response* to our praises and the lifting of our hands in worship. There is nothing supernatural about praising the Lord. It simply shows our genuine faith in His love and His protection. We release our trust in Him.

Psalm 22:3 says *But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel*. God lives and dwells in and manifests Himself in our praises.

Psalm 63:3, 4 says *Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name*.

Psalm 134:2 says *Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD*.

Psalm 141:2 says *Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice*. God is not honored or glorified in man's ritualistic and human tradition. He inhabits the praises of His people through the worship of freedom, life and liberty as we lift our hands in the humbleness of love for a God who is worthy of all honor.

Psalm 143:6 says *I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Selah*.

I conclude with 1 Timothy 2:8 where the apostle Paul said, *I desire therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting*. So we see that prayer with the lifting up of holy hands was customary among the Jews and even the heather. The hands were lifted and spread out toward heaven as a posture of surrender. God desires our surrender and obedience in ALL things.

We cannot surrender to the lies and evil whispers of Satan and his powers of darkness, or yield to the spirit of depression or be overwhelmed with dire circumstances, when we are in the presence of God

through our praise and worship. When we develop the habit of praising God in EVERYTHING, the enemy is defeated. Stand your ground when you encounter pain, difficult situations, tribulation periods, various needs, or a death in the family that comes your way and try to tear down your faith and render you helpless. Start praising the Lord, and keep on praising Him until the victory comes—until the peace comes—until you know that God is moving in your behalf. He will not fail you. He is your constant companion through thick or thin; He will never forsake you. He is faithful to His Word.

We know that the adversary (Satan) hates to hear God's children praise Him. He hates to see our hands lifted in surrender to God's sweet presence. Satan trembles in rage when he hears us give God the glory in all things that touch our lives—good or evil. We have seen the powers of darkness driven out by praise and worship ascending to the throne room of the Father.

Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at His Word; just to rest upon His promise; just to know, "Thus saith the Lord. Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er! Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!" Various times in my Christian walk as I was in the midst of a severe trial, the words of this precious old hymn would come to mind, and I felt the total peace of God wash over me. Praise to God is the key to living a victorious and happy Christian life.

Let's take our cue from the life of David as we read and study the book of Psalms. David learned to praise God in the midst of darkness as well as when he was experiencing the glorious light of God's presence. He praised God for the unpleasant things as well as the good things which came his way. The Psalmist David, when he didn't see good things happening in his present state, purposed to then thank God for the blessings of his past. O child of God, should you not do the same?

We have choices, and I am so grateful that we do. I can choose to be a grumbling, defeated Christian, or I can chose to be a praising, triumphant Christian. I make the decision which road to follow! I chose to walk the road less traveled—the narrow road that Jesus travels upon. The wide road is the road that leads to destruction and it is the road I chose to avoid. What about you? What road are you choosing to travel upon? (Matthew 7:14 – *Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*)

Learn to walk in the *sacrifice of praise*, which simply means; *praise the Lord no matter what is happening in your life*. Especially praise Him with the sacrifice of praise when you don't feel like it! Praise the Lord in advance of seeing your prayers answered. Remember that God will supply all your needs and beloved, when friends or loved ones disappoint you—*keep praising the Lord anyhow!*

Obey God's commandment: *In EVERYTHING give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Getting ready to post this writing to my web page, I hear my daughter, Lorrie, suddenly scream—*Mom, Mom, come quick! The dryer just made a loud boom, and shot out sparks. Lights lit up across the front and I think it blew up. Hurry!*

What! I holler back as I scramble down the hallway into the utility room. *Oh, No, Lord, not this on top of everything else. We haven't even gotten the damage fixed from the broken water heater. I just lost my freezer and now my dryer is toast too!*

Lorrie, white faced and holding one hand over her heart said, *Oh mom! That really scared me!*

After Lorrie calms down, we discuss what to do. I told Lorrie we need to pray and then we would talk about it later. I head back to my room to post my story. I need to calm down myself and seek His help.

I sat down and reread the last paragraph of my article. A little giggle slipped out, and then a huge belly laugh burst forth. *How ironic* I thought, *Yet, how like my God.* The enemy is always at work, but then, so is my God. I jumped up and went back into the living room and asked Lorrie if she wanted to hear something funny. I told her what I had just finished writing and she giggled and said, *Okay Lord, we give you thank for our dryer blowing up and scaring me half to death. And mom, do ya think it's time for a new dryer?*

Talk about having to live out your words! I hear you loud and clear Lord!