

PREACH IT, TEACH IT DEVOTIONAL-DR. DON MCMINN

Warfare Praise

THE DIVINE SILENCER!

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Psalm 8:2
 Psalm 149: 6-9
 2 Corinthians 2:11
 John 10:10
 Ephesians 6:10-17
 Revelation 12:11
 Ezekiel 2:8, 12, 14
 Matthew 16:8, 21:12-16
 1 Samuel 19:18-24
 1 Chronicles 25:1,2

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Jesus,
 I long to live in submission to
 You. Let my praise silence Satan
 and bring spiritual victory in my
 life. You are my King who
 vanquishes the foe. Let me pray
 and praise with Your authority.
 In Jesus' Name,
 Amen



THE POWER OF PRAISE

"May the praise of God be in their mouths... to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron"
 (Psalm 149:6, 8)

The Christian life is not like warfare; it is warfare. We have an enemy (Satan) who is plotting our destruction, "In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes" (2 Corinthians 2:11), and the stakes are high, "The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). It's a battle for life and death - both mortal and eternal.

Most Christians are aware of the defensive armor that is available to protect us from Satan's assaults (the shield of faith, helmet of salvation, etc., see Ephesians 6); and most are familiar with some of our offensive weapons:

- * The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).
- * The Blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11)
- * Our testimony (Revelation 12:11)
- * Absolute surrender (Revelation 12:11)

But did you know that praise is a mighty weapon? Psalm 149:6-9 states, "May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the people, to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, to carry out the sentence written against them. This is the glory of all his saints. Praise the Lord."

According to this verse, God's people can attack the enemy and execute the judgment written on them by using two offensive weapons - praise and the Word of God.

"In this Israel was not an example, but a type; we will not copy the chosen people in making literal war, but we will fulfill the emblem by carrying on spiritual war." - Spurgeon

BIBLE STUDY

1. Why is the praise of God so repulsive to Satan? Read Ezekiel 28:12, 14. It has been suggested that Lucifer was the worship leader of Heaven. He was the highest ranking cherub, and his place of service was before the throne. Could it be that the sounds of praise:

- * Remind him of the heavenly estate he forfeited through his rebellion?
- * Remind him that the throne of the universe is occupied by the Lamb of God?
- * Tell him that we know the source of our power and that we are not relying on our own strength?
- * Call to attention the holy angelic hosts?
- * Acts as a formal request for the Lord of Glory to come and be mighty in our midst?

2. In Matthew 16:8, who is on the offensive, the church or Hades?

3. In Matthew 21:12-16, we read that the chief priests and teachers at the temple became indignant when the children began praising Jesus. What was Jesus' reply (v. 16)? Jesus answered His critics by quoting Psalm 8:2. Read this verse in Psalms and notice that the last phrase is different than what Jesus quotes in Matthew. Jesus equates praise with strength. The end of Psalm 8:2 tells what the strength/praise of God can do. Have you experienced this?

4. There is a thrilling account in 1 Samuel 19:18-24 of the restraining effect that praise had on the demonic filled desires of Saul as he sought to kill David. As you read the account, you'll see the phrase, "a group of prophets were prophesying." To understand the passage, you need to know what that means to read 1 Chronicles 25:1,2. This type of prophesying involved a tome of praise, accompanied by musical instruments; they were declaring aloud the praise of Jehovah! Now read 1 Samuel 19:18-24 and notice the debilitating effect that praise has on the enemy. How could this relate to our Sunday services?

5. Are you able to sense when Satan is "attacking" you or your family members? When he attacks, what do you do? What should you do?

6. What would be the advantage of playing praise tapes during the day in your home, car, and office?

7. It's been said that "safety is not found in the absence of danger, but rather in the presence of the Lord." How does that relate to worship?

8. Reflect back on the past several weeks and identify times when Satan tried to adversely influence you or your family. What is your plan of action the next time he attacks you?

9. For the next several weeks, listen to praise music as often as you can; at home, in the car, at work.