

“Who Goes First?”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, April 26, 2020

Who goes first?

(NFL Draft)

When a group is scared of something, who goes to check it out? Who will taste or try something for the first time?

I. When it comes to spiritual warfare, God gives specific instructions about one of the first things that we should do before and after prayer, and during the waiting period.

- A. Send up Praise first!! After Joshua and Israel had conquered and possessed part of what God had promised them, they still had to finish the conquest.

Judges 1:1-2 NKJV: Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, “Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?”² And the LORD said, “Judah (Praise) shall go up. Indeed, I have delivered the land into his hand.”

B. Why praise first?

1. Praise changes your focus from the bigness of your circumstances or report, to the greatness, enormity, hugeness, massiveness, and power of our All-Powerful God!! His power can never be diminished, nor His glory abated. His power is infinite, eternal, incomprehensible. It cannot be checked, restrained, nor frustrated by any created being or circumstance. His power never fails and never falters. It cannot be stopped when faith and praise are released in the face of the toughest of situations.
2. Praise, out of the heart of faith and released from the mouth, causes a powerful manifestation of His presence and power of God to be released on behalf of His sons and daughters against anyone or anything coming against them. When we release our heart of praise, He inhabits the praises of His people!! He does not waver, vacillate, tremble, shake in fear, or stagger at our present circumstances or what confronts us!! He never bobbles or wobbles, He doesn't flounder or hem haw around, nothing trips Him up or catches Him off guard. He already has a plan and the outcome of every plan spells out defeat for our enemies and victory for His people!!

Psalm 22:3-5 NKJV:

³ But You *are* holy, enthroned (to sit down as a judge and set an ambush) in the praises of Israel.

⁴ Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them.

⁵ They cried (to call together an assembly to make a proclamation) to You, and were delivered;

They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

2 Chronicles 20:21-22 NKJV: ²¹ And when he had consulted (to advertise with purpose) 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.

3. Praise is declaring the goodness and faithfulness of our God and declares deliverance, healing, and blessings is ours. Praise is a declaration of the future outcome of our situation. It is a prophetic declaration that releases the power of God to overturn the plans of the enemies of darkness and brings forth deliverance, healing, and blessings!!

Isaiah 42:10-13 NKJV:

¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song,

And His praise from the ends of the earth,

You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it,

You coastlands (from coast to coast) and you inhabitants of them!

¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities lift up *their voice*,

The villages *that* Kedar (darkness) inhabits.

Let the inhabitants of Sela sing (the rock),

Let them shout from the top of the mountains.

¹² Let them give glory to the LORD,

And declare (stand boldly out) His praise (to boast, rave about, to be clamorously foolish) in the coastlands.

¹³ The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; (Warrior & Champion)

He shall stir up *His* zeal like a man of war.

He shall cry out, yes, shout (to roar with a clear sound) aloud;

He shall prevail (to display superior strength and success) against His enemies.

4. Praise silences the enemy.

Psalm 8:1-2 NKJV:

¹ O LORD, our Lord,

How excellent is Your name (famous reputation) in all the earth,

Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

² Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants

You have ordained (to lay and establish a foundation) strength, (loud and bold praise)

Because of Your enemies,

That You may silence (a boxing term: to knock down and knock out the enemy; to cause to fail) and the avenger.

Matthew 21:15-16 NKJV: ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant ¹⁶ and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected (*restored, repaired, and mended*) praise'?"