



## Faith That Takes Session 3 – Faith That Takes Always Knows When to Praise!

### I. Introduction/Review

A. **Matthew 11:12 (NKJV)** – *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*

**Matthew 11:12 (GWT)** – *From the time of John the Baptizer until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful people have been seizing it.*

**Matthew 11:12 (AFV)** – *For from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven is taken with a great struggle, and the zealous ones lay hold on it.*

### B. Faith that Takes

1. Everything in the Kingdom of God must be received by faith.
2. Receive = Take = to seize/lay hold of/to claim for oneself/to take by force.
3. Two Works of Faith
  - a. To receive/take from the Lord that which he has freely provided.
  - b. To take/by force from the enemy that which he is attempting to prevent me from receiving.

C. **James 2:17 (NKJV)** – *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

1. Faith Inspires Action
2. Faith without works cannot be called real faith.
3. Faith with no action = dead faith or a so-called faith that doesn't get any results.



4. The great examples of faith in the Bible are always accompanied with corresponding action.

#### **D. Bible Examples**

***Throughout scripture the great people of faith always had corresponding action/No one did anything great without ACTION!***

1. Faith that Takes is an aggressive, active faith.
2. Aggressive – pursuing one's aims and interests FORCEFULLY.
  - Making an all-out effort to win or succeed.
  - Vigorously energetic and forceful.
  - Boldly assertive and forward – pushy.
3. Faith That Takes = an aggressive faith that is out to win or succeed, an energetic faith, a forceful faith, a bold faith, an assertive and pushy faith when it comes to the enemy.  
*This is the faith that takes the kingdom by force.*
4. All the great example of the people of faith in the Bible demonstrated this “Faith that Takes” characteristic.
5. Previous Sessions
  - Jonathan's aggressive faith turns the battle.
  - The Battle of Jericho

## **II. The Example of the Jehoshaphat's Battle**

### **A. Key Components and scripture regarding this battle.**

1. This was a great and intense warfare set against Jehoshaphat and God's people.

**2 Chronicles 20:1-2 (NKJV)** – <sup>1</sup>*It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. <sup>2</sup>Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming*



*against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar”*

The battle is stacked – the odds are stacked against him.

2. Jehoshaphat sought the Lord

**2 Chronicles 20:3 (NKJV)** – *And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah*

- a. Whenever confronted with a battle be sure to seek the lord for his strength and his battle plan.
- b. God has a winning strategy for you, but you must take time to seek his plan.
- c. His Prayer =

**2 Chronicles 20:12 (NKJV)** – *O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.”*

3. The Lord’s Instruction for the Battle.

**2 Chronicles 20:17 (NKJV)** – *You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you.”*

- a. You will not need to fight  
*Some take this to mean that they need to do nothing. This isn’t the case.*
- b. You will need to involve yourselves with some action.
- c. You will need to position yourselves  
*Take one’s stand – Every battle requires you to take a stand.*
- d. You will need to stand still  
*To remain – a standing attitude – to endure or persist*



*To arise or to appear – Sometimes we only have to show up for God to show out.*

e. Then you will see.

*When you position yourself and stand still by faith you will see.*

#### 4. The Battle

a. Faith is Necessary in every battle.

**2 Chronicles 20:20 (NKJV)** – *So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; **believe His prophets**, and you shall prosper.”*

i. Established – firmly supported.

ii. Prosper – Succeed = success guaranteed.

iii. You will never succeed in any battle until you believe the promises.

iv. Jehoshaphat – *We have the promise, but we must believe what He said if we are going to win this fight.*

b. Praise – an act of faith

**2 Chronicles 20:21-22 (NKJV)** – <sup>21</sup>*And when he had consulted 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.”* <sup>22</sup>***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.***

#### 5. The battle could not be won until:

a. They believed.

b. They Acted – Action Required.

c. They Praised – Praise was the required action for success.

d. Praise is an expression of **REAL FAITH**.

e. Faith is not real until it can praise.

f. Praise is the real test of faith.



- g. Can you praise him by faith in his promise or do you have to wait until the battle is won?
- h. The battle would not have been won without the act of worship/praise prior to the victory

## B. The Benefits of Praise

1. Praise helps to focus our attention on the right direction.
  - a. Focus on God!
  - b. Focus on the promises!
  - c. Focus on the victory!
  - d. As long as Jehoshaphat praised God, they were focused on *God, The promise that He gave and the victory that was coming. They were focused on what God had said, vs their problem.*
  - e. Praise will RE-DIRECT your attention.
2. Praise is a weapon against the enemy.
  - a. The Word is our Weapon.
  - b. Praise is expressing faith in the Word and releasing it out of your mouth.
  - c. The Devil hates it when we praise God.
  - d. During warfare, the devil will say things and put many thoughts in your mind.
  - e. Praise will quiet the enemy.

**Matthew 21:16 (NKJV)** – *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 praise’?”*

**Psalms 8:2 (NKJV)** – *Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.*

**Psalms 8:2 (CEV)** – *With praises from children and from tiny infants, you have built a fortress. It makes your enemies silent, and all who turn against you are left speechless.*



**Psalm 8:2 (DAR) – Douay-Rheims Bible** – *Out of the mouth of infants and of sucklings thou hast perfected praise, because of thy enemies, that thou mayst destroy the enemy and the avenger.*

*Praise is strength to quiet and destroy the enemy!*

### III. Conclusion

#### A. Don't Wait, Go ahead and Praise

1. How many are waiting on the victory so they can praise?
2. How many victories are waiting on your praise?
3. Abraham gave glory to God before Isaac was born.

*Faith Praise is to take God at his Word!*

*Faith praise is to go ahead and praise like you have it before you actually have it in your hand!*

#### B. Go ahead stir up your faith and praise!

#### C. Faith that takes knows how to praise!

#### D. Faith that takes praises God for the promise prior to ever seeing anything in the natural realm.

#### E. Praise him for your victory!

#### F. Praise him for your healing!

#### G. Praise him for you son and daughter coming home!

#### H. Praise him for promise!

#### I. Praise him in the midst of COVID-19!

*Could it be that we could quiet this enemy?*