

January 30

Psalm 150:5-6 (NIV) ⁵ Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with resounding cymbals. ⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Yesterday, we had several people missing from church because of illnesses. Some were on the praise and worship team so we sang to YouTube videos. One of the videos was of the song “These Are the Days of Elijah” as sung by 300 Marines at Camo Pendleton. I have watched the video before, but this time was different as they were “leading” us during this song. Those Marines stood, locked arms, swayed back and forth, and added hand signals. Plus, they sang loudly! Listening to them, their praise was infectious, and soon we were all singing right along with them. When the song was over, I was amazed at how powerful was their praise and how uninhibited they were.

Later, I remember thinking how difficult it would have been to have been in that room with those Marines and not to join that praise. I would join in not because of intimidation but because the praise was so powerful and heartfelt. Those Marines stood arm-in-arm and sung as one. Those were men and women who were going into battle with each other and with Jesus. Suddenly, I realized that I was looking at the church. We, too, are to be arm-in-arm as we march into these spiritual battles with Jesus. When David went to war, he placed the praise and worship “team” first. The sound of the praise meant the people of God were coming. Our praise should do the same. Our praise should be infectious because of its honesty, passion, and love. As that song reads, “There is no God like Jehovah!” At a time when the world finds Jesus’ name offensive, our praise should proclaim His presence and truth in unity and in passion.