

Encounter Church
Sunday July 28, 2024

Anchor Down
The Anchor of Praise

Hebrews 6:18-20- “So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary. Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.”

Anchor- a device used to secure a sailing vessel to the floor of a body of water and prevent it from drifting.

In the storms of life we need to let down the anchor(s) to keep us from drifting!

Acts 27:29- “Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come.”

A man named Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament of the Bible is on a ship sailing from Caesarea to Rome. He’s with 275 other people (most of them prisoners) and they are sailing at a time when Paul advised them they shouldn’t sail.

They would encounter hurricane force winds on the journey to Rome and would become shipwrecked on the small island of Malta.

But before becoming shipwrecked on Malta they dropped four anchors from the back of the boat to prevent them from drifting into the rocks and being destroyed.

We’re going to spiritualize those four anchors in this series and talk about four anchors that we need to let down to keep us from drifting.

One of the strongest and most powerful anchors you and I can let down in the storm is the ANCHOR OF PRAISE!

The most common word for Praise is **Hala!** which means “to be clear, to shine, to boast, show, to rave, celebrate, to be clamorously foolish”.

The word “Hallelujah” comes from this base word, and is a primary root word for praise in the Hebrew language.

All of the Hebrew words for Praise are meant to take us out of our comfort zones and experience God in a fresh way. Too take a step of faith and praise God!

I KNOW THERE ARE A LOT OF STORMS BLOWING RIGHT NOW! BUT.....

God is more likely to show up at your “Praise Party” than He is your “Pity Party!”

WHY?

1. Praise shifts my focus to God.

“Storms” are really good about capturing all of your focus. If I’m focused on the storm I’m not focused on God!

In the Old Testament David is running from Saul who’s trying to kill him. He goes to Gath which is the hometown of Goliath the giant he killed and he goes before the King. They recognize David so he becomes afraid and acts like a madman to get away and then escapes to the cave of Abdullah where he writes the following.

Psalms 34:1- “I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.”

I’VE GOT TO GET MY FOCUS BACK ON GOD!

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I PRAISE?

Psalms 145:2- “I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever.”

WHY SHOULD I PRAISE IN THE STORM?

2. Praise is where God lives.

Praise is His permanent address. Praise is His home element. God is at home in praise.

(Jack Taylor- “The Hallelujah Factor”)- “This settles one of the vast mysteries which accompanies praise. Why is it when we praise the Lord things change so rapidly? Why does healing come on the wings of praise? Why do human emotions undergo such transition when praise is the choice? How are we to account for those things which accompany praise? The simple answer is: While God is everywhere, he is not everywhere manifested. He is at home in praise and, being at home, he manifests himself best as God! When you or I choose to make God at home through praise, we invite him to act “at home.” When God is “at home” in praise He does what He wants to do.”

Psalms 100:4- “Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.”

Psalms 48:1- God majestic, praise abounds in our God-city!”

Praisers always get God’s attention because God now has your attention!

You and I NEED to praise God much more than God NEEDS our praises?

3. Praise is a weapon against our spiritual enemies.

2 Chronicles 20:21-22- “After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: “Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!” At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.”

Acts 16:25-26- “Paul and Silas, undaunted, prayed in the middle of the night and sang songs of praise to God, while all the other prisoners listened to their worship. 26 Suddenly, a great earthquake shook the foundations of the prison. All at once every prison door flung open and the chains of all the prisoners came loose.”

Paul and Silas were in prison but the prison was not inside them. What was inside them was prayer and praise!

4. Praise is a Choice.

Habakkuk 3:17-18- “Though the cherry trees don’t blossom and the strawberries don’t ripen, Though the apples are worm-eaten and the wheat fields stunted, Though the sheep pens are sheepless and the cattle barns empty, I’m singing joyful praise to God. I’m turning cartwheels of joy to my Savior God. Counting on God’s Rule to prevail, I take heart and gain strength. I run like a deer. I feel like I’m king of the mountain!”

CONCLUSION: Praise is an anchor that will keep me from drifting during the storm. Praise shifts my focus from the storm to God. Praise is where God lives. Praise is a weapon against our spiritual enemies. Praise is a choice.

When He walks into the room everything changes!

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?