

Master's Arts

—Secrets for Succeeding and Surviving—

Praise

Power

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Praise Power

—Power, protection, provision, guidance, endurance, joy and special blessings are given to thankful servants of God who praise Him and have faith in Him and trust in His ultimate wisdom, ability and supreme power.

Psalm 33:1—Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

Psalm 34:1—I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 35:28—And my tongue shall speak of Thy righteousness & of Thy praise all the day long.

Psalm 92:1,2—It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, & to sing praises unto Thy Name, O most High: To shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, & Thy faithfulness every night.

Psalm 100:4a—Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, & into His courts with praise.

Psalm.146:2—While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Lamentations 3:41—Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the Heavens.

1 Thessalonians 5:16—Rejoice evermore.

Hebrews 13:15—By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name.

Revelations19:5—And a voice came out of the Throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye His servants, & ye that fear Him, both small & great.

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(Jesus speaking:) Thankfulness will almost always improve your mood and your spirit, or at least snap you into reality that things really could be a lot worse and that you do have it pretty good! Even if you're not specifically praising Me for each blessing, although that's certainly a good way to do it, recounting My goodness to you or imagining all the worse things I've spared you from is attributing praise to Me, and it's still powerful. It's acknowledging My hand of blessing in your life, which lifts Me up and glorifies Me. That kind of count-your-blessings time is made more powerful if you use it in conjunction with specific praises, voicing your thankfulness to Me and using My name.-- Not only listing your blessings, but thanking Me specifically for each one as you think of them.

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1. There are two times to praise the Lord: When you feel like it, & when you don't feel like it!
2. As long as you're thinking about the Scripture & the Lord & you've got a song or a praise in your mouth, you can't complain & murmur & groan & bemoan about how bad you feel!
3. Give God all the glory! Remind yourself that you're nothing without Him!
4. Please Him by praising Him.
5. We can complain because the rose bushes have thorns--or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses!
6. Give God all the credit all the time at every turn for every little thing.
7. It's healthy to praise the Lord!
8. If you wanna knock the Devil for a loop, just start praising the Lord no matter what's happening!
9. Praise the Lord, & you'll often praise your way right out of the pit into which the Devil is trying to cast you!
10. Praise & prayer, which are companions, sustain our spiritual life.

(True story:)

When I look back to those early years, I can see now how the migraines began. I had the challenge of starting a new church in a fast-growing suburb of Los Angeles [California, U.S.A.] on the rugged, brush-covered Santa Monica Mountains. My wife Colleen and I were fresh from five years of student life in seminary and postgraduate work in Scotland. Three small children filled our house with hilarity and noise.

Days and nights were solidly booked with meetings or calls of prospective members. At any rate, the word that constantly ran through my mind was “production, production, production.” Prayer breakfasts, committee luncheons, evening meetings—even days off were planned with more than could be realistically accomplished. I had more home projects going than a hound has fleas. It took me eight months to clear the driveway of six truckloads of broken concrete for a terrace walk. Colleen would often say, “Honey, why don't you take one thing and finish it?” To me, that was an irritating limitation of ambition.

It was not long before an old childhood infirmity set in—hay fever. It came on with a vengeance, but some new experimental medication seemed to help. Then the headaches began, pounding, nauseating migraine headaches. These were followed by muscular spasms in my back that often required injections for relief.

One evening, a warm and friendly elderly man whom I knew well from church sidled up to me and said, “Louis, how *are* you?” I didn't care for the implication that outwardly things might appear successful, but inwardly there were some tensions.

But as the weeks wore on and the symptoms became more intense, his question haunted me. In a reflective moment I took my psychology book from the shelf and read about migraine headaches. “Characteristic of perfectionist, allergic persons, with excessive ambition.” There I was in black and white—everything set down except what to do about it.

Then came that Sunday night when people were gathering at our home for evening worship services--our church was not yet built. I was in no shape to do anything because of one of the increasingly frequent migraines. I was nauseated; any movement, noise, or light sent throbs of excruciating pain through my temples. It hurt so bad my eyes watered. I knew I could not fulfill my responsibility that night.

As I lay on the bed, a kind of conversation began, a conversation with the Lord that was to change my life.

“You are very tired, aren't you, Louie?” (Finally some sympathy!)

“Oh, yes, Lord, You know how tired I am.”

“Then either you are doing more than I have told you to do, or you are not taking My strength for what I have told you to do.”

I didn't like that so much. And then the dialogue took an even stranger twist with the words forming in my mind:

“Why don't you praise Me?”

Praise! With pulses hitting like battering rams and every sound magnified a hundred times? “The situation just doesn't call for it,” I replied.

“Do you believe that I can heal you?”

Of course I did. I had seen wonderful healings in our congregation. “Yes,” I replied feebly.

“Then why don't you get up and go about your work--and praise Me?”

I suppose it was years of having learned to trust God; I found myself swinging my legs over the side of the bed and standing up with my head pounding. I clicked on the light--horrible! I took a step--worse yet! But as I walked into the living room I felt a strange mixture of faith and experimentation. I chose the three loudest praise hymns in the book with which to start the service. The singing hurt--but something began to happen. As I honestly threw myself into the attitude of praise, it seemed to me that the headache receded a bit. By the time the three hymns were over, so was the worst of the pain.

I finished the service and counseled some folks afterwards for an hour and a half. A sense of exhilaration swept over me--something *had* happened!

A couple of weeks later, having forgotten the “excessive works” lesson, I was dashing down the Hollywood Freeway, late for an appointment in downtown Los Angeles. I had had no time for lunch; I had unrealistically scheduled my day and was hopelessly behind. I was angry with traffic and with Colleen--she had asked me to do a few normal things at home. I felt the back of my neck tighten--a headache was on the way. Oh, no!

“Praise Me.”

That again! I didn't feel like praise.

“Praise Me.”

Once again the battle was on, the struggle inside my own will to shift from a negative, angry mood into thoughts of Him. It was clear I could not indulge in both at once.

I began to praise God from the prison of my foul attitude. I thought of Him and His wonderful promises and goodness, of the beauty of my wife, her goodness, our oneness in work and fun, and I praised God for these things. Sure, she needs me at times; it would be awful if she didn't. Praise God for being needed. I guess those in the cars around me thought it a bit strange to see a man in the traffic jam singing at the top of his lungs--but then a lot of strange things happen in California.

I praised God for the shimmer of the sun on the lush ivy covering the slopes of the freeway. I praised Him for the sun itself.

No headache developed that day, and the ones since then I can count on the fingers of one hand. “Praise ye the Lord,” the Psalmist David tells us, “for it is good to sing praise unto our God.

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(Jesus speaking:) Praise is one of the most useful things you can do with your mind and time, and automatically fills you with My power and Spirit. So if the Enemy is trying to get you down or attack your emotions, deciding to not dwell on his attack at all, and taking positive action by praising Me for anything and everything, or singing a song, or some other kind of praiseful activity will really distract you--and in essence protect you--from what the Enemy was trying to get you to dwell on. He will eventually flee because he can't stand to be around when praise to Me is going on!

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(Jesus speaking:) Before you can gain victory and be shielded from the Devil's bombardment, you have to make a conscious decision to switch off his channel and switch on to Mine. Taking action is the "hand of faith," the action of faith that will flip that switch for you. Deciding that you're not going to dwell on the sadness you feel, or the temptation for something you're not supposed to do, or the loneliness, or whatever it is, and that you're going to burst out with some kind of praise song, or praise words to Me, will defeat the Enemy and turn him from the aggressor to the defender, and you'll be on the attack and on your way to full victory.

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(Jesus speaking:) Praising Me for answers before you see them also helps your prayers to be more focused, direct, and specific, because praising Me for the answer forces you to visualize the answer coming to pass, which helps you to target your prayers and even to target your faith and what you expect of Me. There's a big difference between just praying that someone will be healed, and thanking Me that that person is healed and able to walk normally again, or eat normally again, or resume their normal duties with full strength, or whatever it is they need. Seeing them in your mind's eye being able to do those things again, and seeing them being able to utilize the results of your prayer gives you the right kind of force in prayer that moves My power on your behalf, and brings the direct specific answers you need.

Don't forget too that you should not only praise Me for the ways you would like to see Me fulfill the answer to your request, but that you should also praise Me that no matter what happens, I'm taking care of the situation in the best way possible, and I'm in control.

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(True story:) I'm a first-time mom, single, with a seven-month-old baby, and my biggest trial at times is not being able to put her to sleep. (She sometimes has these screaming fits where nothing quiets her down.) On one occasion she was really tired, but just wouldn't go to sleep. I tried everything I could think of, but she just kept screaming. It had already lasted an hour and a half, and I was getting so frustrated.

Finally I got a check to sing praise songs and--would you believe it? In 15 minutes she was sound asleep! At first I thought it was just coincidence and that it was because she was so tired. But a few days later she was at it again, and I again got the idea to have praise time and ... once again, it worked. Cool! Now whenever I feel another tough time ahead I right away start praising and singing praise songs, and I save myself hours of frustration. The baby is much more relaxed, and even if she doesn't go to sleep at least she's quiet. So, keep praising!

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(Jesus speaking:) Praise makes Me happy and it moves My hand

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(Jesus speaking:) To begin to learn how to praise in deeper ways, I want you to start by taking something that you really don't like--it could be some aspect of your personal situation or circumstances that has been a real trial for you, a thorn in your side, something which you feel has impeded your progress or happiness or fruitfulness. ... In essence, it's anything negative in your life that bothers you, or that you have trouble seeing the good in.

Once you have defined it, you are ready to begin shedding it through praise. First, thank Me for My wisdom in allowing you to have this challenge in your life, and how I know just what you need to draw you closer to Me.

Thank Me for how it has helped humble you and caused you to stir yourself up and search for answers rather than just accept things and be content and slowly die in the wasteland of complacency of the world.

Now force yourself to think of the good about it. Think about how it has drawn you close to Me or made you cry out to Me for strength and grace. Think about how it has motivated you to look for solutions and has kept you from getting too comfortable. Think about how it has helped you grow spiritually, whether in maturity or understanding of others or compassion or in your prayer life, whatever the case may be. I want you to think about the good aspects until your heart is filled with praise to Me and you see how this problem or trial has been a cause for good in your life.

At first you may have real difficulty seeing your problem as being a blessing, as horrible to you as it seems to be, but as you pass through this first hurdle, you will be ready to progress to the next level-to thank Me and praise Me for all the times it has caused you to stumble and fall and to cry out to Me for My mercy, forgiveness, and help; for how it has made My understanding and compassion a reality for you, something you truly appreciate; for how it has helped you to realize how utterly dependent you are on Me for your salvation, and how it keeps smashing your pride and any image or idol of self-goodness and greatness you would want to erect.

Now praise Me for how having this problem has helped to reveal the Enemy's work and how much he hates you and Me and seeks to destroy you by any means he can because you dared to believe that I love you and forgive you and want you with Me in Heaven; that My love for you is greater than any sin or weakness or shortcoming or imperfection can ever be, and that I have the power to totally free you.-And what is more, I totally love you. Let My Spirit wash away your harsh feelings, your negative reactions, or at least dull them with a spiritual painkiller, so you can be free of them for a moment while you pray and begin to praise Me.

Lift up your arms in praise to Me for how terribly I suffered to set you free, for how very much I love you, and how I paid for every sin with My Own life and death on the cross. Focus on how very loving and forgiving I am with you and with everyone. If you have been wounded in spirit through any attack, as you praise Me and love Me, you are letting in the light and My healing balm, which will heal the hurt and the wound and give you strength and draw out the poison. It is the hardest time to praise Me, but it will bring the quickest healing.

Focus on the good no matter how bad the situation seems to be. As you recall the wonderful things I have done and can and will do, faith will take hold and grow in strength.

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(True story:) It had been an exceptionally long Balkan winter. How we had been waiting for spring to come! The beautiful flowers sprang up, trees budded and then burst forth with new life, while birds sang their praises that winter had ended once again. Everyone, I think, longs for this time to enjoy God's beautiful creation to the full. Everyone, that is, but the hay fever/allergy sufferer. For such a person, spring is a time to dread. Hopeful expectation is replaced by worry and anxious anticipation. Pollen, one of the marvels of God's creation and the sower of life, becomes Public Enemy No. 1. Long walks in the forest, bike rides, strolls through meadows in search of wild flowers, and even bouquets of flowers at home are all out of the question.

I have been suffering from such allergies for many years. In the spring, I start sneezing, my eyes develop a yellow film on them so that I can hardly see, and my nose runs constantly. If a well-meaning child would bring me a bouquet of flowers as a gift, I would politely smile as I held my breath, and quickly hand it to my husband to discreetly discard. But *this* spring, I was determined to fight my sickness with praise therapy!

This year, I started to praise the Lord every time I would get attacked with sneezing or runny eyes. The Lord told me that He was going to heal me, and I stood on that promise. From that minute on, the healing process slowly started to work in my body, and after a few weeks, my allergy was totally gone! Praise God!

I confess I had expected a more immediate answer to my praises, but the Lord wanted to teach me lessons of patience along the way. It seems He never lets me get any of the credit for His healing, but in so many ways shows that He always answers prayer, although each time a bit differently from what I expected, in order to keep me desperate and close to Him.

So this spring, things are pleasantly different for me. I am enjoying taking those long bike rides with my husband, strolling through the fields, and even smelling the flowers. Thank You, Jesus, for Your wonderful promises!

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(Jesus:) One of the many reasons that your praise to Me is of such great importance is because your praises to Me stave off your Enemy. If you want to defeat the evil ones, start with praise! Satan and his demons can't take your praises. They are like a shrill, deafening sound in their ears. It's like torture to their souls. The devils of Hell can't handle your praise. The evil ones cannot operate in the presence of your praise. Your praise inhibits them and derails them; it cramps their style and prohibits their activity. They can't cope with your praises to Me.

If you want to successfully fight the Enemy, start with praise. Satan and his imps cannot withstand the praises of the children of David. Your praises call Me; they invoke Me and My power, and your Enemy cannot stand in the face of My power.

Your praises not only draw you closer to Me, but they shut out Satan. Just as your praises woo Me, they repel the Evil One. He has no power to withstand your steady, heartfelt praises. Just as your praises turn My key, give Me great joy, and open the door for My Spirit to work, so do your praises destabilize the Enemy and bring him to a halt.

This is another reason why I love to hear your praises, for I love to see you fight and defeat the Enemy! In this day when Hell's fury rages against you, you must fight back with the three-step plan. Whack Satan and his demons by enacting the PCP plan: Praise, call, and then watch Me perform. I will never fail you!

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When the Devil smashes your life and leaves you in broken pieces, God can come in, take those pieces, and create the most beautiful stained glass window the world has ever seen. God loves to turn our every impossibility into the most wonderful opportunity you have ever had.

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(True story:) It was a hot August morning when I got back from church. Thunderstorms growled & lightning flickered over the 25,000 acres of untouched rangeland behind our house, which sits back some 200 yards from the Mount Rose Highway near Reno, Nevada.

I'd had a busy morning. First I'd helped my wife, Janice, load the car for a trip to Las Vegas where she planned to visit her sister for a week. She was taking the children with her. This meant that I would be alone with our dog, B.J., & our two cats. I was sorry to see my family leave, but I was kind of looking forward to a week of peaceful bachelorhood.

After they were gone, I drove down the dirt road to the highway & on to my church where I taught a discussion group. The topic that morning, I remember, was First Corinthians.

I also remember the feeling of satisfaction I had when I came back & saw our house sitting there in the sea of bush, silhouetted against the blue Nevada sky. It had taken us 10 years of planning & two of building to get that house, & we all loved it. We considered it the last home we'd live in.

At about 2:30 that afternoon, lightning started a brush fire about two miles from our house. I was concerned. Any fire in August is extremely dangerous because the vegetation is so dry, but the wind was blowing out of the southwest, which meant that the fire would be moving away from us. My neighbour, Tony Brayton, came over to watch it with me. We both felt it would be contained before it could possibly reach us.

Still, just as a precaution, I loaded a few belongings into the car. Then I got out a hose & began wetting down our roof & the brand-new deck I had just added to the house. Other people in the area were watching the fire, too. Three times the phone rang with people calling to say that they were praying we would be all right. There was comfort & reassurance in that.

But abruptly, at about 4:45, the wind swung around 180 degrees. The southwester suddenly became a northeaster. The flames were heading straight for us!

Tony, who had left about 10 minutes earlier, came racing back. We stood there, dazed by what we saw. What had been a small brush fire was now a gigantic fire storm roaring toward us, consuming everything before it in a wall of flame 15 to 30 feet high & half a mile wide.

On it came at an incredible pace, sucking oxygen from the air at ground-level in front of it & creating tornadoes of fire that shot 50 feet into the smoke-blackened sky. The crackling sounds it made were terrifying. It was as if some gigantic demon bent on our destruction had materialised from nowhere. It roared up the hillside, leaping across a canyon 60 feet deep & 100 feet wide as if the canyon weren't there. Its speed was incredible. In seconds it would be upon us.

I snatched open the door & screamed for B.J., but there was no sign of her & no time to look for her. Tony & I dropped the hoses & ran for our lives. As we ran, I said the fastest wide-awake running prayer I ever said in all my 42 years of living. I said, "Lord, I put my house & everything in it into Your hands." And then, remembering what St. Paul had said about the importance of giving thanks for everything, good or bad, I managed to pray (although I didn't feel like it), "Lord, no matter what happens, I thank You for it & praise You."

I jumped into my little car. Tony flung himself into my other car. We tore down the road to Tony's house, picked up his wife, warned a family in a third house, & raced for the highway. Behind us, the fiery monster swept on, roaring, hissing, crackling, engulfing everything.

At the highway, I stepped out of my car & stared back at the wall of flame & smoke. How do you react when your house is about to be burned by searing flames? Do you scream? Do you cry? Others were doing all those things, but I didn't, because the thought that was uppermost in my mind at that moment was, "You're a Christian, Joe, so act like one. Remember: 'All things work together for good to those who love God.' Praise God." So I did praise Him, out loud, although I know some people thought I was crazy, or in shock, or both.

We stayed at the highway another 10 minutes or so, watching other houses become engulfed, too dazed to do or say anything. Then the flames were on us at the highway, & police told us we had to move farther up the mountain. Later I heard that 125 utility poles burned along the highway that day.

At this point something happened that was very strange, although it didn't seem strange at the time. As I walked toward my car, a young man with dark hair, dressed in a T-shirt & blue jeans, called to me, "Hey, you in the white shirt!" I didn't know the young man, & actually I was wearing a light-yellow shirt, but I pointed to myself questioningly. He looked directly at me & said, "I got on your roof & watered it down for you." Tony also heard him say this.

I was sure he had mistaken me for someone else, since no one could possibly have gone near my house after I had left. I thanked him anyway, & thought no more about it.

Later, at a friend's house in Lake Tahoe, I was able to reach Janice at her sister's. Having to tell her that our house had burned to the ground was harder than watching the fire. All she said was, "Thank God you're all right."

The threat of fire along the roads made it impossible to get back to Reno that night. I called the fire department repeatedly, but could get no information. At one point I called a church couple, Chauncey & Betty Fairchild, who I knew could see my house from across the valley. "Joe," Chauncey said, "we watched the whole thing through our binoculars. When we saw the flames change direction & head for you, our entire family formed a prayer circle & prayed for your safety & the safety of your home. And, Joe, it's still standing."

I thanked him, but I didn't believe him. Maybe, I thought, he could still see the shell of my house, but I knew nothing could have survived the fire storm. My house was surrounded by dry bush & wood that my wife had asked me repeatedly to clear away.

When I got back to the house soon after dawn the next morning, I couldn't believe my eyes. This is what I found:

The fire had burned to within 10 feet of the house, & all around it, but no farther. House & contents were untouched.

The power line coming into my house had melted, 30 feet in the air, & had fallen to the ground 30 feet from the house.

The telephone lines above the power lines had melted together.

My chicken coop, just 40 feet from the house, was scorched & smoldering...but all 10 chickens were alive.

The dog & two cats were unharmed. The cats were outside, one in the garage & one on the back steps. The dog was inside, very glad to see me.

My bridge, which is 200 yards from the house & not even on my property, was untouched, while my neighbour's bridge, just 15 feet away, was completely destroyed. Only dry brush was between them.

Of the seven houses in my area, three were completely destroyed. All the others were damaged, two seriously.

How do I account for all this? How do I explain the fact that absolutely nothing I owned was touched by the fire, whether it was on my property or not? All I can do is tell you what I think.

I've been a Christian almost all my life, but I know that my faith isn't as strong as it might be. And this may be true of a lot of church-going people; we know we're Christians & we think that's good enough. But I believe there are times when God wants to test our faith--& reinforce it. I also believe--although I can't pretend to understand it fully--that sometimes when we are able to thank God in the face of seeming disaster, & place ourselves unreservedly in His hands, & get out of His way, He can & will do astounding things for us.

The intensity of that fire on the morning of August 9, 1981, cannot be exaggerated. At the time I was working for the Nevada Bell Telephone System, & so I know something about cables. It would have taken at least 1800 degrees of heat to melt those power lines that were 30 feet above the ground. Maybe 2000 degrees. And yet my house, 30 feet away, wasn't even marked. To me, that was God speaking clearly to me, & He was saying, "I'm here, I'm real, I care." He did reinforce my faith, because He knew it needed reinforcing. I'll never be quite so smug or so casual about it again.

Then there's the enigma of the young man, whom I've never seen again. How did he know who I was? How did he know it was my house? When I finally got back to the house, the hose I had dropped on the deck was now on the roof. At least three witnesses have told me that they saw somebody on the roof. But Tony & I left by the only route that was not in flames. How could anyone get there without our seeing him? And if someone did get there, how did he get up on the roof? There is no ladder. You can't just climb up because of the overhang. And, since my power line must have been the first thing to be destroyed, how could water flow through a hose from a well pumped by electricity?

I can't answer these questions. But maybe--just maybe--there's an answer in the Bible. Turn to Hebrews 13 & read the second verse. For the word "entertained", substitute the phrase "been rescued by." Then you may have a clue as to what really happened that August day on the Mount Rose Highway. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained Angels unawares".

For me, it's more than a clue. I think it's the truth.

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(Jesus speaking:) Positive speech is a big part of praise as well, because it's manifesting faith in Me. And as they hear those positive words and statements of faith, it will help them to focus more on the positive as well. It will remind them that, "Yes, the Lord must have a reason for allowing me to go through this. I'm sure there is a good purpose to it all."

(Jesus speaking:) First, when you praise Me, your spirit is surrounded with supernatural power. You don't understand much about the realm of the spirit, and how locations and time and space all have different rules in the spiritual realm. But if you can receive it, praise dwells in the highest parts of Heaven, and when you praise, your spirit is surrounded by those attributes of Heaven-spiritual power, happiness, peace, and protection against the attacks of the Enemy.

Second, when you murmur, doubt, entertain negativity, and especially when you voice those things, you are providing actual pathways for the Enemy to enter your "atmosphere." So while **praise** is a protection against the Enemy-and not only protects your spirit, but actually provides a degree of protection for the physical space around you too-those **negative** attitudes and words actually provide what could be compared to a superhighway for the Enemy to get in.

If your Home is praiseful, full of thankfulness and words that glorify Me and honor Me and uplift Me, you have a great degree of protection against the Enemy-not only protection for your collective spirits, but also protection for your location-your house, the transport you're taking, wherever you are. That is another of the benefits of praise and how it is part of your armor and offensive weaponry of the spirit.

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(True story:) Once, after a late meeting, I walked into a restaurant and asked for a glass of milk. The waitress smiled and went to the kitchen to get my order. A moment later she reappeared with an angry frown on her face.

"I'm very sorry, sir, but someone has locked the refrigerator, and I can't get any milk for you."

"Thank the Lord!" I responded automatically. The waitress looked puzzled.

"Why did you say that?"

"I have learned to be thankful for everything, because I believe that God works everything for good if you let Him."

"I've never heard of being thankful for things like that," she said

"Are you a Christian?" I asked.

"Well," she hesitated, "I think I am, but I've never been sure."

"You can be absolutely sure," I said. "Jesus came into the world to give us eternal life as a free gift. All we have to do is ask Him to forgive our sins and receive Him. I'd like to pray with you and ask God to give you this free gift if you want it."

The waitress nodded eagerly. "Yes, sir, I would like that!"

I touched her shoulder with my hand, we bowed our heads, and there in the empty restaurant, a few minutes after midnight, I prayed with her.

Tears were running down her face. "I've never felt like this before in my life," she said. "I feel as if a great burden has rolled off my back. I really do believe I'm a Christian now."

It may seem inconsequential to make a point out of being grateful for not getting a glass of milk when you want it, but as you learn to thank God for every little thing, God will use your praise to draw unhappy, weary people to Him. And He can turn their burden of worries and anxieties into pure joy and peace.

Let's quit our grumblings and praise the Lord for every dark and crooked thing we see around us. Do it, and watch God's light penetrate the darkness.

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(Jesus speaking:) You can often keep the Enemy and any other evil spirit away from you or your place of habitation by having a praiseful spirit. If you continually praise Me in spirit and are constantly thankful, the evil has a hard time having its way with you. You have to realize that things like fear, murmuring, cursing, complaining, etc., provide actual pathways for the Enemy to enter your atmosphere.

So if you maintain a godly attitude, a praiseful spirit, it's like raising the drawbridge, and the Enemy has no entrance into your place of being. I'm not talking just about your spirit when I say "place of being," but in this case I mean more your vehicles, your house, the road you're on—not only your **spiritual** place of being, but the **physical** place too. You can actually keep the Enemy out of those physical places by keeping an attitude of praise around those places.

If an attitude of praise inhabits everything you do and permeates everywhere you go, the Enemy simply can't find entrance.

He'll try sometimes and he might buffet you, but if you keep your arms up in the spirit, as Moses did, he cannot gain entrance into the ground you have claimed, whether it's the road you are driving on, the store you are entering, or the house you are living in. That's why I have My people do Jericho marches, and that's why I have called it that, because it is a literal takeover of the physical place in the spirit with praise and prayer.

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The fragrance of the Lord is in the perfume of the praises of His people!

The Enemy hates praise!

Let me be a little kinder

Let me be a little blinder

To the faults of those around me,

Let me praise a little more

The only excuse for not praising the Lord is if you are out of breath:
"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord."--Psa.150:6

(True story:) A storm hit southern Costa Rica, where we live. Thankfully, we escaped most of the danger, as our area wasn't flooded as other areas were. The hardships came as all roads were closed, and we were stuck in our little town. Our contacts for food, printing and our witnessing locations depend on travel via these roads!

The month before we'd provisioned three bikes, and these became a small solution for limited travel, sometimes cycling up to 20 miles a day to reach a small town to witness! But after a week we'd gone as far as we could on bikes. Our local provisioning contacts had sent lots of help to the areas hit by the storm, as the Red Cross was blanketing everywhere for donations, so once we came around, everyone was pretty well tapped out!

Also, we were seeing the last of our witnessing tools, and our printer was located in the capital, the roads to which were closed. Within a week, vegetables and fruits were off the shelves, and staples were being pulled from storages to keep the stores stocked, and this began to dwindle too!

Needless to say, we were in desperate prayer, as bad turned to worse all around us, and we weren't prepared for such a state of emergency! We started to go through all sorts of personal battles, having doubts, etc., when we remembered our recent lessons about praise. We knew other mission teams around had a praise time schedule, although we'd never used one, so we decided that now was the time to start! We began to experience more than ever the power of praise and prayer!

During the first days of our new enacted praise schedule, a neighbor stopped by with a large bag of dried beans, more than a month's supply. The one critical thing we'd been running short on was protein, and this was the first miracle the Lord did in supplying this need.

Then, one after another, neighbors began to drop by, bringing sack after sack of fruits and vegetables. Most of our neighbors are farmers and they grow fruits and vegetables in abundance.

The beautiful mystery is that though we've lived here for some time, we have received no visits from the locals, yet exactly in our time of great need, these nearby neighbors decided to come by with all this food!

As we now began to see our needs supplied, we didn't want to get caught up in a spirit of self-preservation and forget to get out witnessing! So we began to pray for a way and means to do so, as all our tools were nearly gone. Then one afternoon, while going through the children's school books, I discovered a stack of literature from almost a year ago, which I'd put away when moving. It had been forgotten, and was found in the moment when we needed it most.

We phoned others asking for prayer, and they sweetly took a day of special prayer, just for us! This touched our hearts and lifted our spirits more than anything -- to feel such concern from our precious loved ones.

We found a lady who agreed to help us with photocopies till we could reach our printing contact; a specific answer to one of the prayers the family had prayed for us! It has now been approximately one month, and the roads are just beginning to open. We've had almost no financial income this month, yet we have never lacked!

The following verses from a recent devotion sums up our hearts and feelings through these experiences this month. "The Lord is my strength and my shield: my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him. The Lord is their strength, and He is the saving strength of His anointed. Save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up for ever." (Psa.28:7-9)

* * * *

Dear old Raymond Richie used to say, "Lift your lightning rods! Get a stroke from Jesus! Raise your hands & praise the Lord!"

How can we be more than conquerors?--By being good losers!--And even praising God in our affliction.

God gets His greatest victories out of seeming defeat, & He often brings them along the neglected path of praise!

Praise is the voice of faith!

If we pause to think, we will have cause to thank.

If you don't thank Him for the blessings He's already given you, He's not going to feel much like answering your prayers to give you something else you want.

To swear is wicked because it is taking God's Name in vain. To murmur is likewise wicked for it takes God's Promises in vain.

Thank God for everything, whatever God sends or lets the Devil bring!

Work & Word,

Scripture & song!

Count your blessings

--You can't go wrong!

Count your blessings, name them one by one,

And it will surprise you what the Lord has done!

* * * *

The power of positive praise is terrific! Count your blessings, thank God for all He has done & chase the Devil away & all his shades of night by letting the Light in. The power of positive praise & quoting & singing & action just really puts the Devil on the run. He sure doesn't like the Scripture & he hates praise & he hates thanksgiving & he hates songs of prayer & praise & he especially hates our positive active work for the Lord.

* * * *

(True story:) An elderly woman who had been filled with the Holy Spirit and had been an active Christian worker for years became crippled with arthritis. Years of pain had robbed her of any joy in living; the smallest household chore was an agony, and she experienced increasing depression.

She believed that God could heal, and had gone to healing meetings, but her condition only grew worse. One day she heard about the power in praising God for everything, and made up her mind to try it. Her task wasn't easy, since now every moment of her days and nights was filled with pain. But she was willing to be genuinely thankful for every part of her life, including her pain.

One day she moved slowly across her kitchen floor, carrying a tray of utensils. Suddenly the tray dropped, scattering items over the floor. Her painful back and stiff fingers made it impossible for her to bend over to pick anything up from the floor. Her usual reaction to dropping an object was to break down in tears of self-pity. But this time she remembered her promise to praise God.

"Thank You, Lord," she prayed, "for letting me drop everything on the floor. I believe You're working it to my good."

In a flash she became aware of other beings in the kitchen besides herself. She had been alone--yet now she sensed others present. Startled, she realized she was surrounded by angels. The angels were laughing and rejoicing, and she knew their joy was for her. Suddenly she understood.

For years she had been filled with self-pity and complaint against God for letting her suffer. She had begged Him to heal her, and inwardly had felt that God had let her down. At last she had seen that her grumbling was rooted in unbelief, and there was rejoicing among the angels when she trusted God enough to praise Him for the mishap with the tray of utensils.

She stood in the middle of her kitchen floor and felt herself saturated by the joy that filled the room. With a heart rejoicing, she could thank God sincerely for allowing the suffering that had brought her such joy.

A short time later she attended a service where they offered prayer for the sick. Confidently, she walked forward. Always before, the painful awareness of her disease had crippled her ability to believe. Now her faith was not anchored in her feelings. She was free to believe, no matter how intense her pain was. That night she was healed. All pain left, and the twisted joints became straight and whole.

When we fully submit to God's will, so that all obstacles in us can be flushed away, and we can be molded, transformed, and renewed for Him, then we'll also find that the joy of the Lord is complete in us.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Praise also has a great influence on those you're around. If you're in a situation that is dangerous, frightening, difficult, or taxing, maintaining an attitude of praise not only strengthens your spirit and helps you have the connection to Me that you need, but it also influences the situation positively, because it limits the influence the Enemy is able to have.

By yielding to a praiseful attitude, you create an atmosphere around you that destroys the power of all of the evil spirits that oppose the heavenly realm, all of the ungodly attitudes that emanate from the Enemy's realm. Let's say you have to give a talk to a large group of people and you start to get attacked by fear. Well, praise can destroy that attitude.

If you start thanking Me and praising Me in your heart and letting a spirit of praise fill you, you begin to destroy the fear and the grasp it has on you.

If a spirit of fear is attacking you, start praising Me, even if it is quietly and in a whisper. Start yielding to a praiseful attitude. Start praising Me in your heart. Lift up your hands and your voice if you have to. But the main point is to yield to and establish a praiseful attitude in your heart and mind, and out of your lips and your body if you are able.

The atmosphere of fear cannot coexist with the atmosphere of praise, and by yielding to praise you are destroying the hold that the spirit of fear has on you. You might not feel like it at first, or you might. But the point is to yield to praise in spite of your fear, and the fear will have to leave, no question about it.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) It's the same with any number of attitudes or spiritual vapors of the Enemy. If you're being questioned by someone who is suspicious of you, strive to take on an attitude of praise in your heart; start rebuking the Enemy in your spirit and start yielding to praise. Praise can uproot and fight against the spirits of suspicion or any other spirits that might be in their hearts attacking you.

If you yield to an attitude of praise as much as you can, what you are really doing is letting Me into the atmosphere, and I am more powerful than any attitudes or spirits that others might have motivating them.

Your praise is a more powerful attitude than any negative or evil attitude those around you may have had. I'm talking about real praise, a real attitude of the heart. If you can garner praise about you and absolutely yield to it, it will defeat fear and disarm suspicion.

That's how powerful praise is, and it's about time that you realized this, for I have given you, My children, the most powerful of weapons, and you need to begin to use these weapons to disarm your adversary and to release his hold on anyone you meet.

* * * *

(True story:) [South Africa] As we were parking the car to go witnessing, it suddenly stopped, and I wasn't able to park properly. I tried to start it again to move a little bit closer to the curb, but the engine wouldn't start.

When we prayed and asked the Lord what we should do, He showed us to leave it in His hands, and that He would take care of it. We pushed the car into place and went witnessing.

We came back a few hours later, but after ten minutes of trying, the car still wouldn't start. We started praising the Lord, even though we didn't feel like it, and only a few minutes later the car started and we were on our way. Thank You, Lord, for the power of praise.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Remember, everyone on Earth is yielding to spirits, to attitudes, and when you encounter murmuring, foul-mouthedness, complaining, hatred, bitterness, backbiting, jealousy, criticalness, or any of a number of foul spirits, what you need to do is start yielding to praise in your heart, in your mind, and in your body if you can. This will displace these spirits and they will have to flee and let go of their hold in the face of praise, if you plant your feet and make your stand there.

They cannot exist there. Why? Because praise dwells in Heaven-and not only in Heaven but in the heights of Heaven-and these spirits do not.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Picture yourself in bed fighting a serious illness. It's so easy for one who is sick to give in to feelings of despair or discouragement, and that is exactly where the Enemy wants to keep you, because he can not only slow the healing process, but rake you over the coals at the same time and make you feel miserable for as long as he can.

But you decide you're not going to give in to him and that you're going to praise Me even through your affliction. As you begin to praise Me, even if all you can do is whisper the words and say them in your heart, you begin feeling My comfort and My love in a supernatural way. As you continue praising, I ease the pain and I bring you relief and sweet sleep, and through this thankfulness of spirit, and the subsequent rest you receive of both body and spirit, your healing process is greatly speeded up. You are not only given grace for the trial, but you come through faster and with more faith and strength than before.

No matter what the battle, if you can turn the discouraging, negative feelings and reactions of the Enemy around and shoot them back in his face through your praises, you will win. It doesn't matter if the physical manifestations of the victory are not immediate; your spirit is uplifted and you are put in a position to fight much more effectively. And by having that spirit of faith and praise, you get an extra dose of grace and power to see you through the battle, no matter what it is, even if you are facing death, or serious pain, or a very trying emotional battle. Use praise to defeat the Enemy and to lift your spirit above the clouds, as you soar on the wings of praise and rise above.

* * * *

(True story:) A family was going on vacation and taking their car so they could drive there. Before setting out, though, the daddy laid hands on the front of the car and prayed that the car would take them safely on their holiday without any mishaps. The very next day, he found a water spill on the garage floor.

At first the daddy was tempted to think that his prayer hadn't worked. But then he realised, "Hey! God showed us this problem so we can get it fixed before our trip."

So they took the car to the garage and got the leak repaired. The next day, they set out on their vacation. They were on the highway and the car was climbing some steep hills. All of a sudden, they heard a big noise from the front of the car and saw a lot of steam coming out from

under the hood. Thankfully, there happened to be a garage just down the road. The mechanic told them that the engine had probably overheated and suggested that they slowly drive home, instead of continuing on their journey. He also gave them a jerry can full of water to top up the radiator.

On the way home, they stopped by the garage that had originally fixed the car. The mechanic checked the car and found there was nothing wrong. He thought that probably an air block had caused the car to overheat. So they asked if they could continue on their way, going on vacation, and the mechanic said, "Why not? There's nothing wrong with the car."

The dad had wondered why, after praying, the car was having troubles on their trip. Then the dad felt God's voice in his heart say, "I have far higher ways than you've ever dreamed of."

Hearing that, he felt very relieved and decided to have faith in God's care—even if things went differently than he'd expected. So they set off on their trip again. Once again, the car had to climb through some steep hills. All of a sudden, the car horn starting sounding and a lot of steam started pouring out from under the hood of the car. The needle on the temperature gauge was all the way over in the red.

This time, the dad stayed calm and trusting in God. He decided to pull over and give the car a chance to cool down. He decided to have faith and give God a chance to work. So when the engine had cooled down and they had topped up the water in the radiator, they set off again. Again the same thing happened.

Now everybody was starting to wonder if it was really wise to keep on driving and thinking maybe they should turn around and go home. Then they got the idea of singing a praise song. They sang one song, "The Lord knows the way through the wilderness. All we have to do is follow." After that, they sang another one.

They noticed that as they kept singing, the temperature gauge went down, down and finally hit normal! Whenever they stopped singing, though, the temperature gauge would go up again. So they would quickly think of another praise song and when they did, the

temperature gauge went back down. It turned out that they were able to continue their journey. They sang just about every praise song they could think of. And the engine behaved itself the whole way to their destination, as long as they kept singing and praising! It even got them all the way safely back home again!

* * * *

Usually in the midst of battle, praise is the very last thing you feel like doing. That's because the Enemy knows that as soon as you start praising, he is defeated. So he tries hard to keep you from praising. But forcing yourself to do it even when you don't feel like it is how you become tougher as a soldier, a better fighter.

* * * *

Praising with angels

Psalm 138:1 I will praise Thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto Thee.

Psalm 134:1-2 Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD.

Psalm 135:1-2 Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise him, O ye servants of the LORD. Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Praise is one of the most powerful weapons I have given you. Why? Because it is effective instantaneously, and the effects are felt immediately. It's so fast that it zaps the Enemy's power before he has a chance to get started. When used at the onset of a battle, it throws his weapons out of order and defeats them, sending him spinning, confused, unraveled, and unable to launch a clear attack.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Learn that you can't wait until the Enemy has you engaged in serious combat before you pull it out and begin using it, but that you should launch an offensive against him right at the start of the battle, when you first feel those little nudges, those little thoughts, those little trials coming on, or you foresee some difficulties or problems arising. By using this weapon of praise in an offensive way you will generate more power and spiritual energy, because you won't be weary from having to fight a long battle. You will impair the Enemy at the onset, destroy his weaponry, and force him to retreat.

* * * *

(True story:) For years I'd been afraid of one day losing my teeth. Then one day my dentist told me that my gums were badly infected, and the bones around my teeth were deteriorating. X-rays showed the sad picture; I would soon lose my teeth!

Downhearted, I left the dentist's office. Of course I knew that I ought to be thanking God for my condition, but I wasn't very happy about it.

"Thank You, Lord," I said. "I'm grateful that You've allowed my teeth to get into such bad shape. I'm sure You know better than I do what's best for me, so I praise You, Lord."

Even as I prayed I began to feel more thankful, and when a friend came along, I told her about my new occasion to praise the Lord.

"Have you prayed for healing?" she asked.

"No," I said. "I've just now realized that losing my teeth isn't anything to fuss over, since it can't happen unless God allows it."

"I think God wants you to have perfect teeth," my friend said, placing her hand lightly on my shoulder. "Dear Lord," she prayed. "Thank You for letting Merlin's teeth get in such rotten shape. We praise You and ask that You be glorified in this, so touch Merlin now and heal him completely."

Three days later I was back in the dentist's office and watched while he studied my new X-rays carefully. He had a concerned, puzzled look on his face, and once put the X-rays down to take another look in

my mouth. He shook his head and muttered under his breath, and I thought, *Maybe they're worse than he expected.*

Finally the dentist stepped back, looked me over from head to foot, and asked, "What in the world have you done to your teeth?"

"Not a thing!"

"Then I don't understand." He looked from my old X-rays to the new ones. "Your bones are perfect, your gums are no longer infected and swollen--in fact, your whole mouth looks perfect!"

The Bible says to "rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1Thes.5:16-18).

* * * *

[] When I wake up in the morning, are my first thoughts ones of praise and spending time letting Jesus know how much I love Him, and receiving His love?

[] Is praise/loving Jesus an integral part of my daily Word/personal time with Jesus?

[] Do I know who my praise angels are?

[] Do I communicate with my praise angels on a regular basis, getting practical tips, ideas, and instruction in the use of the weapon of praise?

[] Do I put into practice the personal tips and counsel I get on the subject of praise from the Lord and my praise angels?

[] When praising the Lord do I default to saying, "Thank You Jesus, thank You Lord," or do I make a conscious effort to make my praises specific and meaningful?

[] Do I make an effort to praise the Lord in tongues whether or not I feel I "have the gift"?

[] Do I lift my arms to praise Jesus both in public and in private?

[] Am I an active participant in united praise times?

* * * *

ACT.16:23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

ACT.16:24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

ACT.16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

ACT.16:26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

* * * *

[] Do I put prayer, thought, and planning into my personal praise times, as well as those I lead for the Home, or with the children, so that our times of praise can be as meaningful and worthwhile as possible?

[] Do I praise out loud at "random times" during the day in front of others?

[] Is my first reaction to a difficult situation or problem to sincerely find something to thank and praise the Lord for, and think about how Romans 8:28 could be fulfilled through it? If I respond to bad news with "Oh great," or "Bummer" (or even something worse, Lord help me!), do I catch myself and turn it into a praise?

[] Do I use the weapon of praise when I am personally attacked by the Enemy in any way? Do I wait until I'm well into the battle, or do I use it right at the beginning as an offensive weapon?

[] Do I use the weapon of praise when I am praying for others, or counseling them or helping them? Am I experienced in using it not to minimize whatever they're going through, but in a way that it brings the Lord's answers and solutions and a spirit of faith into the conversation?

[] Whenever I hear an answer to prayer, or win a victory, or finish a project, etc., do I take time to thank and praise Jesus? Do I get excited about the many daily miracles He does for me, and let Him and others know?

[] Is praise an integral part of my prayers and prayer vigil?

[] Do I keep a list of praise ideas, tips, quotes, etc., to help me during those times when I don't feel like praising?

[] Do I have a reminder system of some sort to help me remember to praise?

[] When I am discouraged or battling heavily, do I pull out the weapon of praise as my first attack against the Enemy?

[] Would others in my Home, my children, and sheep consider me a positive, praiseful person?

* * * *

EXO.17:8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

EXO.17:9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

EXO.17:10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

EXO.17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

EXO.17:12 But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

EXO.17:13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

EXO.17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

* * * *

[] Do I make an effort to use spare moments throughout the day to praise?

[] Are the praise and loving Jesus songs part of the music I listen to?

[] Is praising, encouraging and appreciating others, especially the children, a strong point in my life? If not, am I taking definite steps to make it a strong point?

[] When I pray for the night, am I faithful to include praise and to count my blessings?

[] Is the spirit of our Home one of praise and thankfulness for the Lord's supply, protection, provision, and leading? Or have we taken on a spirit of weariness and complaining and are just trying to survive?

[] Are our children gaining practice in praise and thankfulness, and learning from our good sample?

[] Does our Home regularly include singing and praise time as part of our meetings, devotions, classes, etc.?

* * * *

(True Story:) One day I was trying unsuccessfully to fix a pair of eyeglasses. The lenses kept popping out no matter how hard I tried to fix them, and it was very frustrating. After half an hour of futile attempts, I was ready to quit. Then I remembered the advice from Jesus in "The Art of War, Part 2," about how we should use praise as an offensive weapon when problems come up.

I figured I'd give it a try and began praising the Lord, singing praise songs, etc. It felt a little funny at first because I wasn't used to doing it. But I kept on praising for about five minutes and suddenly--*pop!* The lens popped right into place. It was inspiring and encouraging to see the Lord fulfill the promises He has given in His Word!

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) When each of My children seek Me as to how to personally become a more militant fighter and praise-wielder-which each one should do-calling on the Victory Squadron as part of your offensive weaponry of praise is an important part of being able to receive **all the personal and custom-made instruction I wish to give each of My [children].**

* * * *

New key promises on praise

Keep the keys of praise on your lips at all times, and you will be invincible.

The keys of praise unlock the door to greater faith.

Call on the keys of praise to drown out Satan's voice and dissipate discouragement.

Release the power of the keys of praise and they will help you to overcome in spite of everything.

The keys of praise will lift your spirit and keep you on a positive track.

The keys of praise protect your thoughts and open the door to My mind.

Praise Me for everything in your life-the good and the bad, the pretty and the ugly, the joyous and the sad-and you will experience peace and contentment that transcends the boundaries of the earth or flesh.

Call on the keys of praise to fill your heart, mind, and entire being with the positive attitude that you seek.

Praise, the power of the keys, and looking to Me are the secret. So don't start looking at the waves. Claim My keys, praise Me, look to Me for guidance, and I will never fail to calm the sea, give you safe passage, and make the mountain of obstacles fade away.

The keys of praise will defeat the Enemy and all his ways.

The keys of praise are an unbeatable force that you can tap into at any time. Use them and you'll always come out victorious!

The keys of praise are mighty, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. They are ready and willing to cut the Devil right to the heart and send him screaming. When you're weary and discouraged, and feel like you have no strength to rise above the circumstances, call on these keys and they will lift you up and out of the stormy seas, and set you on dry land again.

* * * *

(True story:) Yesterday I chose to have the boys help me cleaning up some boxes and a pile of miscellaneous items that have gathered. We sorted things in their warm bedroom. A cheery music tape was playing and the sun was shining in the window.

Everyone is healthy and fine, and as soon as we are done we're going to have fruit salad and healthy yummy coconut ice-cream. On top of it, a package had just arrived with a new book of gorgeous photos to be looked at right afterwards, in the clean room. Everything is fine, right?

Hmmm. For some reason one boy's unspoken manner of feeling is rubbing the other guy the wrong way, who can't stop voicing what is bothering him. The third boy is upset that he needs to help, as he'd rather get a rock and start cracking nuts...

We power on, "At least your brother is helping... stop grumbling... just listen to the music... perhaps you got hurt because you were angry and slammed the door, and so couldn't be as careful..." were some of the things said.

Then the eldest boy discovers a secret to feeling better. He couldn't change the way he felt. He couldn't change the way he thought his brother felt and the way he was acting.

"I just decided to smile. Even though I still had tears in my eyes, I just smiled. And then I felt better." And sure enough it was catchy. The brother cheered up, and so did the rest of us.

Before too long we were laughing while cleaning up, as we were having a contest who could still hold a grumpy face with others smiling at them. Everyone cracked a grin.

I said, “What a great discovery! If everyone on the Earth did just that right now, the world would be so different, right now!”

When I went later on to make the fruit salad I found a little love surprise for me. Tiny but meaningful. On one of the apples there was a bruise—and the bruise was in the shape of a heart. Even if our day gets a few things wrong, or we feel bruised and things are less than perfect, love can make things right; and Jesus loves us anyway. He’s there with us in the good and the tough times. He loves even our imperfections, and can bring beauty out of them.

We all sat outside in the sunshine, with their daddy too, and enjoyed a lovely new start to the day.

* * * *

New key promises on praise

Use the weapon of praise with your whole heart and you will break the Enemy's hold on you.

Praise will release all that you need for any trial or difficulty. Call on the keys of praise to help you praise Me.

Those who hold on to praise with their whole hearts, putting off pride, will do great and mighty exploits.

Praise will keep you through every tempest and storm.

My children never need to worry or fret when they have the undefeatable, unstoppable, almighty weapon of praise on their side!

Praise, and do not stop praising Me, and you will know no boundaries.

Claim the keys and praise your way to victories that the Devil will never be able to recover from or resist.

The Enemy cannot stand praise. Use the amazing, power-packed keys of praise to slam him to the ground in defeat.

The keys of praise are a powerful, miracle-working weapon that you possess; use them and you will see magnificent results.

Praise Me even when you don't feel like it, for the keys of praise will bring victory out of seeming defeat. It's always the right time to praise.

The keys of praise will outlast, outlive, and overpower anything that comes against them. Use them, and see the results!

I ride upon the wings of your praise. Therefore claiming the keys and praising in any situation, especially a negative situation, brings **Me** right to the forefront of the battle, where I draw out My sword and cut the Enemy to the heart.

Praise leads directly to the center of My heart. Claim the keys when you praise and I will run quickly to you with all My power available to win the battle.

* * * *

(True story, by a 15 year old:) It all began with my desire to learn the drums-but I couldn't afford a drum set. I prayed about it and the Lord told me to try to provision it.

At first I thought it was an impossible feat, but the Lord told me to claim the keys and the victory would be mine. So off I went to provision a drum set with [an older missionary friend]. God bless him for having the faith to go with me!

The day started off well, but by the end of the day ... no drum set. We did get one lead, though, someone who told me to call him back about it later. So I mustered up the courage and called.

The man said he could only help with the drum shells and asked me to call back to confirm if I wanted them and when I would come by to pick them up. I was a bit discouraged about it but the Lord told me to accept what he was offering. So I prayed again, and this time began using the weapon of praise.

The next time I called the man, I was so surprised to hear him say that he would give me the whole drum set and even some cymbals as a bonus. Wow! Only the Lord can do something like that! Even if things look impossible to our carnal mind, rebuke the Enemy's lies, praise, claim the keys, and call on your spirit helpers because the victory is yours. "There are no impossibilities to the people of the keys," and I know He will do it for you because He did it for me!

* * * *

Praise is the atmosphere of Heaven. It's what the inhabitants breathe in to nourish their souls, and it's what they breathe out to nourish the framework of a loving society. Call on the keys and praise to create the same atmosphere in your Home.

Praise is the hand of faith that pulls the trigger and eliminates the Enemy. The keys of praise will always bring you victory or reprieve.

In a standoff with the Devil, the keys of praise will help you to blind the Enemy and overrun his position immediately.

The keys of praise are the weapon of choice for anyone who wishes to be one of My champions.

The keys of praise should be your primary offensive weapon. Use them to obliterate any evil spirit or negative mindset.

Using the keys of praise sends a spiritual shock wave across the Enemy's territory, clearing the way for you to march in and claim the land.

Having your new weapon of praise powered up and ready to fire at all times will give you the advantage you need in any situation where the Enemy might try to preempt you. The keys of praise work best if fired first. So fire them at all times and keep the Enemy running and dodging your spray of spiritual munitions.

* * * *

So how do we harness the Lord's Spirit? One of the main ways is through praising Him. Praise not only brings us into His presence, but it brings Him into our presence. In other words, it attracts His Spirit to be present with us and then to work in the situation as we need and desire. Praise activates God's power. Praise releases the help from the spirit world that we need. Praise is one of the most effective and positive ways of defeating the Enemy--it makes the atmosphere around us inhospitable to him; it drives him far away.

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(True story:) A friend who has known us for about two years is a former drug addict who has had quite a miraculous deliverance. He really loves the Lord and the Word and is faithful to witness. He was very excited to hear about praise time, and has been faithful to have his praise times each day. He didn't see us for a month or so, though, and this was apparently a time of decision for him.

He was out of fellowship with us, but he said, "No matter what I did, I just could not stop my praise times! Every day at 10:00, 12:00 and 5:00, it was like a bell would go off, as if the Lord was calling me. Every time I had my praise times, it made me think of ... the Word and the Lord and it kept me from all the temptations that came. In fact, it strengthened my conviction that that's where I needed to be... serving the Lord!"

This prompted him to come back into fellowship again and to be faithful to read the Word. Now he has his own little flock of former drug addicts and people he's known through the years. He's been able to help some of them come off drugs, praying with them and reading the Word with them and trying to encourage them.

One of his friends, who is actually going blind from the effects of drugs, called the other day to let us know that he's also practicing the praise time habit and it's helping him to fight and feel much stronger and more confident in the Lord.

What a beautiful testimony of the power of praise and how blessings do come down when we praise. Thank You Jesus!

(Jesus speaking:) Praise will give you the strength and endurance that you need. Or when things are going well, praise will help you to be proactive, and to send up praises for the bigger and better things the Lord is going to bring your way in the future.

The conditions will sometimes be pretty rough--spiritually and physically. Employing praise is one of the most important ways to keep your morale high, to keep your mind sharp and focused, and to stay free of any of the Enemy's discouraging thoughts or feelings that threaten to pull you down.

Not only is being praiseful beneficial to you, in lifting your spirit, but it will also positively affect the people that you talk to and interact with. They will sense your positive spirit. It's a part of your testimony. When you're praiseful, you're full of Jesus. Since it's our job to sell Jesus and to get others hooked on Him, what better way to be full of our product than to be full of praise? You'll shine like a light in the darkness, and you'll be able to draw many to Him. Those in the world will want the happiness that you have.

I send you forth with the light of praise--a light of joy, thanksgiving, and happiness--one that a despairing world desperately needs, and one that will prevent you from falling into the sadness that will pervade the atmosphere as the days get darker. As you show your happiness of spirit through your countenance, as you keep praises to Me on your lips no matter what situation you find yourself in, you will be conquering the forces of darkness through your example and your fighting spirit. You will show the world that life's difficulties can be weathered when one has adopted an attitude of praise. They will want to do the same, and they will then see miracles happening in their lives too.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) It's that positive power that starts flowing through you when you open your mouth and let Me fill it. As you let the praise out, as you speak it, sing it, think it, even shout it, you start the flow of My Spirit not just **out** of you, but **into** you. You won't always be praising out loud when you're witnessing and winning, but you get the flow started beforehand so that once you're out there, the flow is steady and the positive power of praise is radiating from you. Getting yourself started takes some effort, but once the flow is going, it's more automatic, and you just have to keep your mind switched on to the positive.

* * * *

(True story, by a 16 year old:)

The retreat was wonderful. It touched my life in an incredible way! It was total contact with the power of God and the Holy Spirit. One thing that has always been difficult for me has been to hear the Lord's voice speaking to me personally, but at the retreat I actually heard Him right there by my side. I didn't even have to ask the Lord for the gift of prophecy or for faith to hear Him speak, I just started hearing His voice and I heard it the whole time we were there--almost constantly.

During the inspirations, I would praise the Lord with my eyes closed and I would actually hear Him saying the sweetest things to me. It was incredible; the things He said lifted me to Heaven and I didn't come back down.--I still haven't come back down!

The Lord used many people to talk to me. Every word that someone would say, I could feel it was the Lord speaking through them to me. One experience that I had was during a praise session we had, when the Lord told me very clearly, "I'm going to send you a hug directly from Me. Someone will come and hug you and it will be Me hugging you." Right then a friend of mine came and gave me a hug, but it was so different. He hugged me so tight and so special, I just said, "Wow! Thank You, Lord!"

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) It's through praise that many miracles are wrought. It's through sincerely thanking Me for the good, the bad, and the ugly that you rise above the earthly realm; that's where you touch the supernatural, and that is where I can do miracles.

* * * *

* Begin every ... meeting with a short praise time specifically for your ministry and the things that the Lord has done--long- and short-term--and also for what He will do and has promised to do. Infuse your ministry with praise, along with prayer and the keys, thus ensuring that you have all of the power of Heaven with you.

* Use praise to fight the Enemy and wound him when you are confronting a murmuring spirit, or a fearful spirit, or a bitter spirit, or any of a number of unpleasant or negative spirits that you can sometimes confront or encounter

* If you're teaching a class and [they] are having a hard time understanding and receiving certain spiritual principles, and the Enemy seems to be fighting them with doubts and trying to close their heart, stop for a few minutes of praise together with them. Thank the Lord for the light of His truth, and dispel the Enemy's darkness and confusion, fear and doubt. Use praise to create a direct link from your sheep to Jesus so that they will have understanding and acceptance of His words.

* If you're shy or nervous about giving a class or an upcoming appointment, or you're feeling awkward **during** the appointment, praise will help you to take your eyes off the way you feel and give you the boost of faith and courage that you need.

* Smile, under any conditions, and keep on smiling. Smiling exudes a spirit of happiness and faith, which shows those who are watching you that Jesus lives and breathes and works through you. Smile, and you will be a true reflection of His Spirit.

* * * *

(True story:) I experienced days of discouragement and knew that this was not God's will and plan for me.

I searched the Scriptures for clues. In John 17 I found Jesus praying to the Father for us, His followers. He prayed: "...that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves." That's what I wanted. The joy of the Lord, not just when things were going good, but always. Jesus prayed that I might have it, then what was keeping me from experiencing it continuously?

In Matthew 25:21 I read: "...thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

So it was a matter of my entering in. I had to do it; it wasn't given me just automatically. "But how do I enter in, Lord?"

In Luke 6:23 Jesus tells us that we are to leap for joy. He even describes when we are to leap for joy: "When you are hungry ... when men shall hate you ... when men shall reproach you ... when they cast out your name as evil ... rejoice in that day, and leap for joy."

"How do you expect me to leap for joy under those circumstances, Lord?" It didn't make much sense, but the more I read my Bible, the more scriptures I found saying the same thing. Was there a principle involved?

I read Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. In chapter 12:9–10 he says: "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

Infirmities were the very things that up till now I had not been enjoying. But over and over again I found the words in my Bible: "Rejoice! Thank God for everything." The Psalmist continually spoke of joy in the midst of troubles. "Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing," says David in Psalm 30.

I was willing to try, but how?

One evening I felt God speaking: "Are you glad that Jesus died for your sins?"

"Yes, Lord, I'm glad, I'm glad."

"Does it make you feel good to think of His dying for your sins?"

"Yes, Lord, it really does!"

"Does it make you feel happy to know that He has given you eternal life by His death for you?"

"Yes, Lord, it does!"

"Do you have to strain or try hard to really be filled with joy that He died for you?"

"No, Lord, I'm filled with joy."

I knew that God wanted me to understand how easy it was to be glad that Jesus died for me. I could clap my hands, laugh, and sing with thanksgiving for what He had done for me. Nothing in my life was more important; nothing could give me more joy.

Suddenly I felt as if God was about to teach me something I'd never known before.

God said: "It really makes you glad that they took My Son and drove nails into His hands, doesn't it? It makes you glad that they took My Son and drove nails through His feet. It really makes you glad that they drove a spear through His side and the blood flowed down His body and dripped on the ground. It makes you very happy and you laugh with great joy because they did this to My Son, doesn't it?"

Everything became very silent. I didn't know how to answer.

"It makes you glad that all that was done to My Son, doesn't it?"

Finally I had to say: "Yes, Lord, it does. I don't understand it, Father, but I am glad."

For a moment I wondered if perhaps I had given the wrong answer. Perhaps I had misunderstood.

Then to my great relief I heard Him say: "Yes, My son, I want you to be glad!"

The joy within me increased as I realized that God wanted me to be glad. Then everything became very quiet again, and I knew I was about to learn something else.

"Now listen, My son. For the rest of your life when anything happens to you that is any less difficult than what they did to My Son, I want you to be just as glad as you were when I first asked you if you were glad Jesus died for you."

I said: "Yes, Lord, I understand. For the rest of my life I am going to be thankful. I'll praise You, I'll rejoice, I'll sing, I'll laugh, I'll shout, I'll be filled with joy for whatever You permit to come into my life."

It was easy to promise to rejoice right then; I was having a wonderful time in prayer. Joy was just flowing over me and through me like a stream.

The next morning I was sitting on the edge of my bed when I heard a voice: "What are you doing?"

"I'm sitting here wishing I didn't have to get up!"

"I thought we made an agreement last night."

"But Lord, I didn't know You meant things like *this!*"

"Remember what I said, 'in everything.'"

I said: "But Lord, I've got to be honest with You. I've been sitting on the edge of my bed every morning for twenty years wishing I didn't have to get up. I've been thinking how wonderful it would be if I could just lie down for five more minutes."

But the Spirit said: "You are supposed to be thankful that it is time to get up."

"Lord, that's a little beyond my ability to comprehend!"

The Lord is always very patient and kind: "Are you willing to be made willing?"

"Yes, Lord, I really am."

That night I went to bed praying: "Lord, this is a rough one. You're going to have to do it for me. I'll get up anytime You tell me to, but I don't know how to be thankful that it is time to get up."

All I could hear was: "Are you willing?"

"Yes, Lord, I am."

The next morning I woke up and the first thing that popped into my mind was my right big toe. I heard: "See if you can move it." I could.

"Are you thankful that you can move it?"

"Yes, Lord."

"Now try your ankle. Are you thankful?"

"Yes, Lord."

"Now your knee. Are you thankful?"

"Yes, Lord."

"Now see if you can sit up."

"Yes, Lord, I can. But I've got to be honest with You; I still wish I could lie down and go back to sleep."

Very patiently He said: "See if you can stand up. Are you thankful? Now see if you can walk to the bathroom. Look into the mirror. Are you thankful you can see?"

"Hallelujah!"

"Are you glad you can speak and hear?"

"Yes, Lord."

Then everything became very silent. I knew again that out of the silence I was to learn something from God.

"My son, because I love you I am going to teach you to be thankful for everything. You can learn standing right there with all the things you are thankful for, or I can let you go back to bed and not let you move, see, or hear until you learn."

I jumped two feet into the air and said: "Lord, I understand! I am thankful! I will always be thankful."

The next morning, and the next, and the next, the first thing I thought when I woke up was, "Lord, I'm thankful." Never again have I been sorry it is time to get up.

Paul said, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities." Getting up in the morning had been an infirmity for me. God told me to take it and reverse it from pain into joy, and when I did, the power of Jesus and His joy came upon me.

I memorized and said over and over to myself the verse from I Thessalonians 5:16–18. "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Praise can give your attitude and outlook a complete makeover--from negative to positive, from reluctance to anticipation.

* * * *

The Lord is asking us to learn to maintain our heavenly perspective even in the midst of very bad situations, and the secret to doing so is using the weapon of praise.

Does feeling bad about something that has happened--whether it happened to you or to someone else--make the situation better? Does it lift your spirit and cause you to remember the Lord's love and goodness and see things through His eyes? Not usually.

On the other hand, practicing praise--or, as non-Christians would call it, gratitude--in difficult situations does change things. It brings the Lord's Spirit and power into the situation. It uplifts you and others around you. It helps you to see things through a positive perspective. It gives you faith--faith in the Lord, and faith for change and improvement and positive results even from negative circumstances--and **faith** is the victory.

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(Jesus speaking:) Have you truly thanked Me for allowing things to reach such a bad state, so that I can work in the lives of My children?

Have you thanked Me for those things, and then taken it a step further and been happy that you have the blessing of hearing the bad news, because you are thrilled about the results you know I'll bring about, the many Romans 8:28s that you'll see, and the good that will come of it?

Can you take what may seem to be a truly tragic, hopeless, desperate situation and allow it to kindle your faith in My power so much that you burst into praise, and you swing the weapon of praise boldly, thrilling to the battle, knowing that I will overcome, that I am greater, that I am in control, and that one way or another, I will bring ultimate victory?--Not to mention countless other benefits along the way?

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(Jesus speaking:) This is one of the most powerful forms of praise:

Praising right from the start, praising even though you haven't seen a hint of victory yet, praising even in spite of apparent defeat. When you have taken on that attitude, you will have only just begun scratching the surface of using the weapon of praise as the offensive weapon that I've designed it to be.

This aspect of praise is a tricky one to master, because it goes contrary to your natural mind. You feel that you're betraying even your sense of justice, honor, or compassion when you revel in the challenge and defy the Enemy's attacks by glorying in the battle like this.

But when you feel that eagerness to fight, that thrill at seeing bad situations because you know that's the battleground where I am going to bring victory out of defeat, **then** you're starting to get there with the weapon of praise.

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(True story:) I was seeing the fruits of praise in my own life, I found myself excitedly pouring out of the abundance of my heart on the subject with the different folks we met. Oftentimes, the person we were meeting with would be going through a crisis, and this would open the door for the subject of praise.

I met Simon, a businessman who regularly receives the *Activated* magazine. He has always appreciated the Word, and often puts into practice what he has read or heard from us. When we came to see him this time, he seemed bothered. He admitted that he had really gone "under," and couldn't help but be "upset with God." For the last two months, the company income had been very low, making things difficult.

Contrary to his usual admonition to his staff that, "God is always here for us and He will work things out," Simon felt that God had let him down, to the point that he'd even verbalized his frustration, by murmuring about God in front of his staff.

I told him about the spiritual weapon of praise and the art of rising above. I brought out examples from *Power in Praise*. I explained how there would be a testimony out of this test, but *only if* he starts to praise God for it and make it a testimony to his staff of real faith and trust in God despite the gloomy circumstances.

He said that his staff would think he was crazy if he walked in the next day and praised God for the poor business and lacks they had. He agreed to do it nonetheless. He was determined to use this new skill to defeat the monsters of doubt and clouds of discouragement that loomed around him, and to counter the flood of problems besieging him.

Four days later, we visited him again. Excitedly he told us of the miracles that had taken place over the previous couple of days.

A very big business deal with a major petroleum company came through, giving him an order for his products with a large profit margin that will help him cover most of his bills. Besides that, several other orders came in for his products, upping the company income considerably--all within the last 48 hours!

When I returned to Thailand, Simon forwarded an e-mail to me explaining about a new distributor--someone he'd never even met--who had just sent him a US\$7,000 check just to prove that he was a sincere buyer, before even receiving the goods. Things were definitely looking up and Simon is seeing the very real power of praise in prayer and the way it unleashes Heaven's power, resources, and blessings that God has for us.

We met again a couple of months later, and Simon shared how he is now sharing this new "business module"--the praise factor in business--with his friends and clients!

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(Jesus speaking:) It's so unnatural and even seemingly heartless to look at problems in a positive way, with gratefulness and praise. You subconsciously pull back from saying such extreme praises in the face of problems, especially problems that hurt people, or where people are suffering or there is pain and injustice. You feel you must instead show sympathy, compassion, and understanding for the poor and downtrodden.

But when you do that alone, you lose sight of the battle, and you aren't fighting. You're commenting or observing or analyzing, but not fighting. You're not truly fighting with praise until you glorify Me in spite of the pain, suffering, tears, sadness, injustice and anything else.

When you fight with the weapon of praise, the details of the situation become almost irrelevant, except that you are thankful that the situation, no matter how bad or ugly, has paved the way to the fighting ring for you, and has exposed the Enemy so that you can attack him and let Me win the victory. You're so thankful for My goodness, My mercy, My love, My wisdom, My care, My ability to use absolutely everything for good, that you overflow with praise to Me, because you

are honored with the opportunity and have the blessing of seeing Me move and act.

Fighting for a victory by choosing to praise is actually **doing** something to help the bad situation. When you only sympathize and feel bad and show concern, you're essentially a bystander in the spiritual warfare.

The weapon of praise isn't a warm and fuzzy makes-me-feel-good-all-over powder puff of a tool. You have raw power in your hands with the weapon of praise, but it takes time, effort, study, and a vacuum to learn to use it and to truly access that power. It's an advanced weapon, and only those who really want it will learn to use it to its full extent. Only those who are truly humble enough to learn it and use it will ever come to know even a fraction of its power.

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(Jesus speaking:) Take on My nature, and I will help you to know how to use praise in even the saddest and most personally troubling circumstances as a rescue rope, a blanket of comfort and warmth and encouragement to those who are struggling. If you are taking on My nature, your praises will be full of My heart of love, My understanding, and yet My perspective that I have a plan, I am in control, and thus you can praise Me with faith that I'm going to take care of you and everything is going to be all right in the end.

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(True story:) The only time God gives Satan permission is when God sees the tremendous potential in the thing passing through us and coming out as joy, pure joy!

The power of the resurrected Christ is in us. Miracles, power, and victory will all be a part of what God does in our lives when we learn to rejoice in all things.

One morning I got into my car to go to work. It wouldn't start. In the Army there is no excuse for being late to work. I said: "Okay, Lord, here I am. You must want me to learn something, so I thank You

that this car won't start."

After a while someone came along and helped me get it started.

The next morning the same thing happened. "Thank You, Lord, I know You have some wonderful reason for having me sit here, so I'm going to be filled with joy, and praise You." Again I was able to get it started.

Later that day I took the car to the post garage. I told the manager my problem. He said: "I'm sorry, Chaplain, but the man who works on that kind of car has had a heart attack and is in the hospital. I hate to tell you this, but you'll have to take it to a civilian place." He had a pained expression on his face as he said it. "Chaplain, they know our mechanic is sick, and they'll really sock it to you. They've been doing that to everyone I've sent there."

As I drove toward the "civilian" garage, a voice tried to whisper to me: "Isn't it terrible that those civilians would take advantage of us Army people?"

I told that thought to go back to where it came from, and continued thanking the Lord that He had worked out this whole incident for my personal benefit. I said: "Lord, I know You are in this and I praise You for it."

I pulled in to the garage, and the manager came over with a writing pad in his hand. With a glint in his eye, he said, "Can I help you, Sir?"

I explained my problem to him, and he went through a list of things that "might be wrong."

"We can't repair that part here, so we'll have to send it to another shop. This, however, may not be the problem, so we may have to do something else. It could be several different things, but we'll keep looking till we find the trouble."

"How long will it take?"

With a smile he said, "I'm sorry, Sir, but I have no idea. It just

depends."

I could imagine the cash register pounding away.

"How much will it cost?"

"I'm sorry, Sir, I have no idea what it may cost."

Our post garage was right. They were ready to get everything out of me that they could. "Thank You, Lord; You had a good reason for this."

I agreed to bring the car back the next morning to leave it there until they could find and fix whatever might be wrong.

I then managed with much difficulty to get the car started. I put it in gear and began to move forward. Just then the manager quickly stepped up and grasped my arm. "Wait a minute! I've just thought of what may be your trouble. Turn off the engine!"

With that he opened the hood and began to poke around with a screwdriver. In a few minutes he said: "Now try it and see how it works."

I stepped on the starter and the engine purred away like it was new.

"Wonderful! How much do I owe you?"

"Not a thing, Sir, glad to do it."

Then the Lord again spoke to my heart: "My son, what I wanted you to know was that your life is in the palm of My hand and you can trust Me for all things. As you continue to thank Me in all circumstances you will see how perfectly I work out every detail of your life."

"Hallelujah, Lord!" I bounced up and down on the seat for sheer joy. "Thank You, Lord! Thank You for showing me all these wonderful things."

I rejoiced, and realized that if I had grumbled and complained, the entire incident would have profited me absolutely nothing. How many opportunities I had passed up to let God teach me how much He

loves me! Most of us go around carrying these opportunities as heavy burdens, but God has ordained through Jesus that all of these things can be revolutionized as they pass through us and come out as joy!

How glorious to know that at this very moment God wants to fill our hearts with overflowing joy. Not because of our goodness or our righteousness or our sacrifice. It depends on only one thing, on believing the Lord Jesus.

When we begin to really believe that, the power of God begins to break loose in our lives. That's what Jesus tried to explain to us when He said, "Leap for joy when they persecute you. When you are poor. When you have sorrow."

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) You're going to have to get over your worries about seeming insensitive and realize that praising Me in difficult situations might seem a bit insensitive at first, because it's turning away from the difficulty and facing Me. I can and will help you learn to mix praise with comfort and understanding, as you ask Me to help you take on My nature. But when it comes down to it, there is often a much greater need than mere sympathy, or only making someone feel better. There is often a solution needed, a long-term victory, a breakthrough in the spirit, a healing, a miracle, or what have you. And sympathy on its own isn't going to bring those elements of the miraculous into the situation, or even make people feel better enough to overcome their sadness.

So in that case, which is better: To only give sympathy and make them feel better temporarily, or to throw them a lifeline? The more you make praise a part of your life, the better at it you'll get. Soon you'll be an expert rescuer, an expert who throws out the lifeline graciously and with finesse, and will be able to both adequately comfort **and** rescue the one in need.

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(Jesus speaking:) Here are a few more tips, and then you're just going to have to swallow your pride and do it. And the more you do it, the more you will learn, and the better at it you will become.

a) Claim the keys of humility. Ask Me for humility. Take steps of humility. The more you can get rid of pride in your life, the easier it will be for others to accept help from you, because they will sense that you aren't looking down on them in any way.

b) Ask Me to give you a spirit of sincere praise. If you are praising Me from your heart, this is beautiful and comforting and liberating in the spirit, and contagious in a good way. There are no pretenses or airs.

c) Be willing to sacrifice and lay down your life in order to help the person. If you are willing to do whatever is necessary to help them pull through--praise being one way, but not the only way you're prepared to help--that conveys a tremendous amount of love and reassurance.

I can help you to learn how to use praise skillfully and powerfully to help others and change circumstances and situations, My loves. Remember that My love for you is full of understanding and yet full of heavenly perspective. You too can have both as you use this weapon of extreme praise to comfort and encourage others and help them to receive My healing and solutions. *(End of message.)*

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(True story:) Here is a response to the radio show I did on the power of praise and praising the Lord through difficult circumstances:

"Praise God! You helped me pray when I was very low, hopeless, penniless, lonely, and in a situation no one could ever imagine. I went hungry for four days, but with your prayers and many others, you helped me get back on track. God has given me the victory. He is still doing more than what I had even prayed for! I got a job, and I'm in a wonderful relationship with Him. He is opening a new door every day. Gone are the days when I would go on my knees and just cry! I go on my knees to thank Him now and end up singing Him a song! Now I know and believe how powerful praising God is! God bless you!"

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(Jesus speaking:) One way to make your first reactions more praiseful is to break the habit of using sentences or phrases that many people use that do NOT denote praise, such as "Oh dear!" or "What a bummer!" and things like that. When you say things like that, you're inadvertently dropping your weapon of praise.

Yes, it is hard to praise Me directly for something that's very hard or seemingly bad in your life, or in the life of someone you love. But when you find yourself in a very bad situation and choose to praise Me for it, that act of praise is an act of yieldedness and testifying to Me and others that you know I am in control, ...that you know nothing comes into your life but what is from My hand, and that if I allowed it to happen, then there must be good to be brought from it. This type of yieldedness and praise is powerful.

To only praise Me for the upside, or because you hope things are going to change, is good, but not nearly the best. The best is to be able to praise Me for the situation exactly as it is, in conjunction with praising Me for My power to bring victory in any situation. Both are needed. To praise only for how you hope things will change, or how you think I'm going to deliver you, is not full praise. It is not complete yieldedness to Me. Full yieldedness is knowing that no matter what it looks like to you, I have a plan, I have all power, and I will do what is best. Without that full yieldedness, you're in essence saying that you'll only praise Me if and when things change--and that's not full praise.

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(True story:) For many years I had suffered with painful headaches. I seldom complained about it; I just thanked God that I wasn't as bad off as some people. One day He said: "Why don't you try praising Me *for* the headache?"

"For it?"

"Yes, for it."

I began to lift up my thoughts in thanksgiving that God was giving me this headache as an opportunity to increase the power of

the Lord in my life. The headache got worse. I continued to thank God, but with every thought of praise came increased pain. The pain reached an overwhelming state; I held on to thoughts of praise and thanks. Suddenly I was being flooded with joy. Joy seemed to pour over every cell of my body. I had never experienced such power in joy! I was certain that if I took a step I would rise clear up into the air. And the headache was completely gone!

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(Jesus speaking:) The highest level of praise is "though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15), showing Me that you're thankful for what I've done in your life or the lives of others, even if it seems very hard at the moment, and even if there is no improvement. It acknowledges that whether you can see the end in sight or not, you're thankful for what I've done, fully acknowledging My involvement and that nothing enters the life of one of My children except what I allow.

Then I expect you to also stand on My promises and hold Me to My word to bring total victory in the situation, in whatever way I know is best--and this too is great cause to praise Me, even if the victory is nowhere in sight at the moment. You know it's there. You know I will bring it. So after you have shown your yieldedness by thanking Me for allowing the bad situation, you then praise Me for how I'm going to use it for good--even if you don't see how that's possible--because I am all-powerful.

It's important, though, to not tie your praises to a specific resolution that you desire. You can praise Me that I'm capable of doing anything, but you shouldn't only praise Me for one particular outcome, as that may not be My will.

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JOB.1:20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

JOB.1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

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(Jesus speaking:) You can focus on My ability to keep you happy regardless of any circumstances, focus on how the situation is teaching you deep lessons and making you sweeter because you're more broken and humble. You can focus on how you know that these lessons of the spirit are worth the suffering, and that you're thankful I chose to bless you with this time of difficulty, which is maturing you and making you more loving and compassionate.

You can focus on how I'll make you happy in the end and bring wonderful things into your life as a result. All of those praises give Me room to work and show Me that although you don't know how something is going to turn out, you know that I have a whole lot of good I will bring out of it, and whatever I choose to do is all right with you.

This kind of praise in the face of extreme difficulty, this unrestrained, unrestricted, no-personal-agenda type of praise is the kind that really gets results--and one immediate result is the feeling of power and happiness that will fill your soul even in the darkest, roughest times. When you yield and praise like this, you're always going to benefit, simply through the act of doing it.

(Jesus:) When you praise in a very difficult situation, what you are telling Me is that you submit to My will and accept My allowing it to happen. In these kinds of situations, praise demonstrates acceptance. Your praise is acceptance. The praises that come out of your mouth are a verbal expression of the faith and trust that is in your heart. The reason that a lot of people find it so difficult to praise Me when something "bad" happens or when something happens to them that they don't like is because they aren't trusting Me and their faith is weak.

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(True story:) For fifteen years I had suffered with hay fever at least six months out of the year. Many weeks were so bad that I sneezed and coughed and held a handkerchief to my nose all day long. I had taken shots, tried medicine after medicine, prayed, fasted, and prayed some more. I went to everyone I knew or heard of that would pray for me. Nothing helped.

Why did God let me suffer? Didn't He care that I felt so miserable?

My friend, Chaplain Curry Vaughn, had told me I should believe with him that God would heal me. I avoided seeing Curry when I had one of my attacks because he always kept telling me to keep on believing. I had tried believing for fifteen years and didn't know what more I could do.

One day I was scheduled to speak to a noon meeting of men in a local Methodist church. As I drove into Columbus, the water started pouring out of my nose and I sneezed so hard that it was difficult to keep on driving. The thought came: "Praise Me!"

I began to think of how good God was to let me have this infirmity of the flesh. He was permitting me to have it to teach me something. It wasn't an accident of nature that I was allergic to so many things. God had planned it this way for His glory and for my good. "Thank You, Lord, for Your goodness. If You want me to have this I'll just trust You to heal me whenever You want to."

"What do you want Me to do?"

"Heal me, Lord."

"Heal you or take away the symptoms?"

"Aren't they the same, Lord?"

"No, they are not."

"Okay, Lord, then just heal me and I won't pay any attention to the symptoms." With that I knew that God had showed me something new and wonderful.

Every time I had prayed for healing in the past and tried to believe, I had always been defeated when the symptoms persisted. Now I knew that the symptoms meant nothing. Faith in God's promise was all I needed; then Satan could fake all the symptoms he wanted!

When I arrived at the meeting place my nose was still running like a faucet, and I was sneezing uncontrollably.

I said, "Lord, if You want me to make a fool of myself, I'm willing. I'm leaving my handkerchief here in the car and I'm going in to speak for You."

As I walked toward the church I began to feel better. When the meeting was over I suddenly realized that I had no symptoms of hay fever.

Day after day there were no symptoms.

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(Jesus speaking:) The strongest method of using praise is to actually praise Me for the problem or hardship. That's the method that brings about the biggest miracles. For one, praising Me for a problem or hardship will immediately give you more peace in the midst of the storm. You will be thanking Me for the difficulty, which means you are trusting that I allowed it in your life and trusting Me for the outcome.

By praising Me for a problem or hardship, you slam the door shut on the Enemy, who expects this difficulty in your life to be a victory for him. The praise completely shuts him out of his expected victory. Satan looks at problems and hardships in a Christian's life as his opportunity to tear down their faith. He looks at those situations as his opportunities. But when you praise Me for those difficulties, you destroy Satan's opportunity to enter and make use of these things.

I'm not just referring to praising Me by faith for a positive outcome, which is also a form of praise. I'm talking about the method of praise when you thank Me for the **problem**. You actually praise Me wholeheartedly, even if by faith, for the problem just as it is at the moment.

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(Jesus speaking:)This method of praise does not come naturally. You are going to have to practice diligently to build this as a positive habit. But it's one of the main secrets to the age of miracles during this time in history, the Endtime. It's a secret to greater unity, greater dependence on Me, greater humility for Me to work through, greater faith, and greater access to My heavenly thought power. Learn to turn every problem or hardship into a full praise, and you will be an overcomer that the Enemy cannot touch or stop.

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Here are a few phrases that you can use to get started when you can't think of anything good to praise the Lord for.

- * Thank You, Jesus, that You know best.
- * Thank You for allowing this to humble me, Jesus.
- * I know nothing and You know everything.
- * Thank You for Your wisdom that is so much greater than mine.
- * Thank You for being in control of this situation.
- * Thank You for taking care of me.
- * Thank You for doing what is best for me, even when it seems so contrary to what I might think is best.
- * You do all things well, Jesus.
- * You're wonderful, Jesus.
- * You're beautiful and I praise You for Your greatness, Your power, Your majesty.
- * You can do anything, Jesus, and You allowed this, so I praise and thank You for it!
- * All things work together for good to them that love God and to them who are called according to His purpose. Thank You for being powerful enough to turn even this for my good.

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(True story:) To live a life in uninterrupted happiness in God, looking on every circumstance as coming from God, and thanking Him for it--that is wonderful.

There is nothing haphazard about God's plan for our lives. Nothing, absolutely nothing, however strange, inconsistent, or evil it may seem to us, happens without God's specific consent.

One lady wrote me her amazing story illustrating that point.

She had been born with only one hand, and from the time she was old enough to realize that she was different from other children, she had worn a scarf or a stole over the stump of her arm to hide her handicap. She was always painfully conscious of her deformity, and as a young woman she began to drink to hide her hurt.

She was fifty-six years old at the time she wrote me:

"Six months ago I visited my sister, and she played a tape where you spoke about praising God for every problem or tragedy in your life. As I listened, I felt like someone had hit me in the stomach. I felt sick. After all the years I'd blamed God for my misfortune, I wasn't ready to thank Him for it. I said, 'Lord, forget it. I thanked You for freeing me from alcohol, but I can't thank You for this other thing.'

"But no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't get the thought of thanking God off my mind. It bugged me day and night. Finally I said, 'Lord, why don't You get off my back--I'll do anything for You, but not that! I just can't.' Still, I couldn't find any rest. At last I played the tape once more. This time I heard something I'd missed before. You said that when the young soldier and his wife found themselves *unable* to thank God for the terrible thing they were threatened by, they at last said they were *willing to try*. The rest seemed to come easy. About that time, I'd reached the point where I was willing to try almost anything, just to get some rest. So I told God I was *willing to try*, even if I was sure I wasn't *able*. As soon as I'd said it, it seemed like a load of many years just rolled off my shoulders. I started to praise the Lord--my tears

flowed--and it was like the song says, 'Heaven came down and glory filled my soul!' In the middle of all this rejoicing, the Lord spoke to me and said, 'Wait a minute; I'm not through with you yet!' I sat up. What more could there possibly be? I'd just made the supreme sacrifice and thanked God for the deformity I'd hated all my life! But very clearly the words formed in my head:

"You are not to carry a stole or a scarf over the stump of your hand anymore!"

"I felt an instant tightening-up inside. 'No, Lord,' I muttered. 'That's going too far. Don't ask me to do that.'"

"'As long as you're hiding it, you're not really thankful; you're still ashamed,' came the gentle reproach. Tearfully, I conceded.

"'I'm willing to try,' I promised. 'But You've got to make me able.'"

"The next time I had occasion to leave the house was when I was called for jury duty. I dressed and automatically reached for my stole. Instantly the warning came. 'No!'"

"I said, 'All right, God, I'll start out without it, but I am not going to promise I won't come back for it!'"

"For the first time in my life I stepped outside the front door without the protective covering to hide my missing hand. As soon as I closed the door behind me, all embarrassment, the shame, and the sense of guilt were washed away! I knew for the first time in my life what it was like to be really free. I knew that God loves me just as I am. Praise the Lord!"

God permits every circumstance of our life for a good reason. Through it, He intends to bring about His perfect and loving plan for us.

The very thing you think is painful proof of God's absence from your life is in fact His living provision to draw you toward Himself--so that your joy may be full!

Look up and praise Him! He loves you, and He dwells in the praises of His people!

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(Jesus speaking:) The very act of praising is not only beneficial to your spirit and uplifting to your heart, but it actually rejuvenates your body and causes great strength to flow through you. When you begin to praise, it's as if your uplifted arms channel My power back down toward you, and your body receives energy that is not of this world.

Many times has this story been told, this "Battle of Uplifted Hands" (2 Chronicles 20:1-29). But if those involved could have seen in the spirit what was occurring, they would have known they had the advantage from the beginning. As soon as the singing and praising began, the spiritual realm began to rumble. As their hands were raised to Me, it was as if a circuit had been tripped, and power, like lightning, shot down to each one whose heart was full of praise toward Me. At that instant, the panic the opposing armies felt was caused by the demons and spiritual enemies of My children freaking out, for they were familiar with the power unleashed by the obedience and praise of My children, and they knew that they had no defense against this great power.

History recorded the rest, yet even now history is being written by you and your prayers and praises to Me. Let not your eyes be limited by the mere physical outcomes and manifestations of these acts, but look unto Me and lift your eyes to the heavenlies where I can show more fully the nature of these spiritual weapons and how they wreak death and destruction upon the Enemy's empire like nothing you've ever seen! *(End of message from Jesus.)*

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(Natalia says:)

***You can praise Him with your singing**, either out loud or silently singing in your heart to Him. He loves it either way.

*** You can praise Him with beautiful, godly instrumental music**, which inspires and lifts your soul and spirit to Him, praising Him through the music, with sentiments that are beyond words to express, but which the music expresses from your heart to His.

*** You can praise Him by thanking Him for the very specific ways He has blessed you personally that very day or hour or moment**, whatever you happen to be doing.

*** Praise Him by giving a sincere praise or compliment to the person with whom you're working or relaxing at that moment**, thanking Him for that person..

*** Praise Him by thanking Him for the way He has made you**, even if it's difficult for you to accept some things about yourself.

*** Praise Him for the way His beauty and light shines through so much of creation**--a rose or the smile of your child or the radiance of the sunset. Praising Him for the beautiful things that surround you will help you to search for them, even if they haven't been obvious to you before.

These are just a start, but a good start! The ways of praise are many, as I said, and the more you practice praising, the more ways will open up to you, as you praise! *(End of message from Natalia.)*

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(True story:) Discovering the power in praise was one of the most exciting experiences I'd ever had.

One day an Officer Candidate came to my office. He wept for a long time. "Sir, you must help me. My wife has been asking for a divorce. Her lawyer has just sent me the papers to sign. I just can't keep on with the Officer Candidate program. I don't even want to stay in the Army. Please help me."

"I know just how to get your problem solved. Let's kneel down and thank God that your wife wants a divorce."

He didn't understand. Carefully we went over the Scriptures together. At last he decided he might as well try it. We knelt together and he prayed, turning the whole situation over to God and thanking Him for having allowed it to happen.

When he returned to his unit he was so shaken emotionally that they gave him the rest of the day off. He went to his bed and lay there, repeating over and over, "Thank You, Lord, that my wife wants a divorce. I surely don't understand it, but Your Word says I should thank You for all things, so I'll do it." All day long he thought the same things over and over. That night he couldn't sleep, so he went on thanking God. The next day he went through training in a daze. "Lord, You know I don't understand, but I thank You anyhow."

That evening he was sitting in the mess hall having dinner. As he was eating, it suddenly hit him. "Lord, You really *must* know what is better for me, much more than I do. I *know* all of this must be Your will. *Thank You*, Lord; now I understand!"

At that moment another candidate tapped him on the shoulder and told him to come to the telephone.

In all the weeks he'd been a candidate, no one had ever wanted him on the phone.

When he lifted the receiver there was someone weeping on the other end. "Honey, can you ever forgive me? I don't want a divorce!"

Jesus didn't promise to change the circumstances around us, but He did promise great peace and pure joy to those who would learn to believe that God actually controls all things.

The very act of praise releases the power of God into a set of circumstances and enables God to change them if this is His design. Very often it is our attitudes that hinder the solution of a problem. God is sovereign and could certainly cut across our wrong thought patterns and attitudes. But His perfect plan is to bring each of us into fellowship

and communion with Him, and so He allows circumstances and incidents which will bring our wrong attitudes to our attention.

I have come to believe that the prayer of praise is the highest form of communion with God, and one that always releases a great deal of power into our lives. Praising Him is not something we do because we feel good; rather it is an act of obedience. Often the prayer of praise is done in sheer teeth-gritting willpower; yet when we persist in it, somehow the power of God is released into us and into the situation. At first in a trickle perhaps, but later in a growing stream that finally floods us and washes away the old hurts and scars.

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I praise You with all that is in me! I look up to You and sing Your praise. I lift up my arms in thanksgiving. I praise You for Your greatness.

I praise You for Your strength that is made perfect in my weakness. I praise You for holding me and refusing to let go. I praise You that You ever live to make intercession on my behalf. I praise You for Your constant vigilance, Your unending care, and Your undying love.

I praise You for Your supply. I praise and adore You for Your continual guidance, for Your leading the way. I praise and thank You for charting the way ahead and for Your provision every step of the way.

I praise You for the victories that You give into our hand. I praise You for Your strength that is forever.

I thank You and praise You for delivering me from the impossible. I praise You that all things are possible as I receive Your Spirit within me. I praise You for Your power to overcome all obstacles.

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(Jesus speaking:) I understand that there are times when you don't feel very praiseful and thankful. There are times when you're hurting or discouraged, when you're sad or overwhelmed, and the last thing you feel like doing at those times is praising Me. It's natural to have highs and lows in your emotions--that's the way I made you.

But you must also remember that the Enemy tries to capitalize on those emotions and exaggerate them and get you to act on them when it would be in his favor. For example, when you don't feel like praising Me, he'll exaggerate those feelings and try all sorts of things to keep you from praising, because he knows that if you were to start, it would mean your victory and his end! Or when you do feel praiseful, he'll use your pride to hold you back; he'll remind you about what people might think, or how it might seem pretty uncool to praise Me right then, and he's probably often successful in his attempts to keep you from praising Me!

So while I understand that it's totally natural and human for you to many times not feel at all like praising Me, I still expect you to do it, and it's not hypocritical. In those cases it's simply obedience, and obedience brings on My blessings. Even if your praises don't feel like they're coming from your heart, because your heart is so sad or battling so much, if you'll simply start, you'll soon have real praises in your heart, and little by little the light will come back in and My Spirit will take over.

If you don't feel praises bursting from your heart, start praising anyway out of obedience. But really think about what you're saying. Really think about your blessings, about all that I've given you and done for you. If nothing else, think about all that could be going wrong that isn't, and praise Me for that. Soon you'll start to feel the praise bursting from your heart, as you sincerely think about all the good I have done for you. ...once you start remembering the good and praising Me for it, then the feelings of thankfulness will well up within you. The more you praise, the more you'll find to praise Me about, until it becomes a way of life, a lifestyle change, which changes everything for you in the spirit, and also in the physical. You will feel the results of this, I promise.

(True story:)

It happened only 15 minutes away from home. I was sitting on the front seat between my husband, Amber, who was driving, and our daughter, Sue, whom we were taking back to college in Chicago.

From our home in Hobart, Indiana, it is only a 50-mile trip. But the road was slick from rain that morning, and there was a lot of traffic on the Kingery Expressway. When Amber pulled to a halt behind a line of vehicles, he looked in the rear-view mirror to see the most terrifying sight in all his years of driving--a huge trailer-truck hurtling toward our car sideways and out of control.

A second later the skidding giant hit our fully loaded station wagon, spun it in a half-circle and then fell with crushing force right on top of us. Crunching metal. Shattering glass. Silence.

With amazement I realized that I was alive and not noticeably in pain. The back of the seat had collapsed, and I was lying flat with the crushed roof of the car a few inches above my face. My knees were wedged against my chest so tightly that I could only manage small gasps for air. With difficulty I could turn my head and I could move my hands, but nothing else.

What about the others? Amber spoke to me. He was lying on his side, and his trapped legs were oddly twisted. Wedged into a tiny space, he was finding it hard to breathe.

Sue, on the other side of me, was flat on her back, but she could move a little and was apparently unhurt.

None of us were in severe pain, nothing seemed broken, no one was apparently bleeding. But we could do nothing to help ourselves. Worse still, none of us knew how long our battered car could hold off the crushing weight of the truck which covered and surrounded us. At that moment, we simply acknowledged the fact that we were still alive; and we praised God.

I decided to keep my eyes shut. I knew that I had done so consciously to keep calm, and that if I let my imagination dwell on what could happen to me, it could kill me.

I could imagine Sue, with three years of nurse's training, thinking the same thoughts: remembering that what kills a lot of people in accidents is simply shock. Yet as we started to discuss our frightening situation, we realized that we weren't panicky. We all had a tremendous sense that God was with us there in the wrecked car which might yet become our coffin, and that He was keeping us calm.

Of course, we were afraid. Closing my eyes couldn't shut out the heavy odour of diesel fuel from the capsized truck. The smell of gasoline from our own gas tank mingled with it. A single spark could ignite it all.

Suddenly, amazingly, a friendly face appeared at the shattered window beside Sue. A motorist who had been passing when the crash occurred had squeezed beneath the precariously balanced trailer, risking his life to see if there could be anyone alive whom somehow he could help.

He stayed with us, promising us that help was coming, assuring us that we were in good shape, until the police arrived to relieve him. He was the first of God's shock absorbers.

The ones who followed had names--Mike, Red, Bob, Chuck and John. They were policemen and state troopers and they took turns at the car window, talking, reassuring, holding the hand of Sue, who was nearest the door. We learned that outside on the highway firemen and rescue workers had summoned a crane which would try to lift the truck to release us.

I opened my eyes for a moment and got the impression that the car roof was nearer my face than it had been only minutes before. Surely I was imagining things! I must not panic. I wondered if the others had noticed anything.

"I'm all right," Sue assured me, "but I can't move as much as I could. The space seems to be getting smaller."

Amber was beginning to gasp for breath. The roof above him had advanced several inches, and very little air was getting through to him. We knew then, for sure, that the truck was still moving down on us. Inch by inch, it was pressuring the final resistance out of the crumpled metal of our car. Into how small a space could three people be squeezed and still live?

I had a new surge of reassurance. *God knows how much we can take*, I thought, *and He will hold the space to that.*

A fireman appeared with a tube connected to an oxygen supply, and we managed to manoeuvre it to a place near Amber's mouth. He began to breathe more easily, and after a while he and Sue started to sing Gospel choruses.

The young state trooper named Mike was with us when the moment came which all of us knew was our moment of greatest peril. He was ordered out from under the trailer--and no one took his place. Alone for the first time in two and a half hours, we knew that outside a crane must be trying to lift the trailer. If the crane could not hold the giant load, it would fall back again, probably to crush us finally.

Inside the car the three of us held hands. I remember saying, "Don't be afraid. God hasn't brought us through this awful experience to let us die now. It's going to be all right." We began to pray again.

Suddenly the pressure on us seemed to ease. Within a few seconds men were around the car, wedging timbers under the trailer so that it could not fall back on us. Minutes later the car door was being cut open, and we were eased out of our three-hour prison.

Sue was lifted out first, and I followed her into the same ambulance. God had given us so much assurance that we were able to joke with the ambulance men as they put their arms around us. When Amber was brought out, he sat up on the stretcher and waved his hat to the crowd!

Police told us that everyone who saw the accident was sure that we had all died in the wreckage. St. Margaret's Hospital, which had been told to prepare for three casualties "dead on arrival", was amazed to find three happy people without a broken bone or any sign

of shock.

It was God Who took the shock.

Very often I have heard the Words from Isaiah 26:3: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." God was very real to us even before that terrible morning--if He hadn't been, I don't believe we could have lasted through such an ordeal. What I know clearly now is what it means to have His peace.

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***(Jesus speaking:)* Try to be as specific as possible when you praise Me.** This really helps you to focus and actually enjoy the praise.

Try to think of specific and unique topics for which to praise Me. Make them as specific as possible and you'll find that praising is actually a lot of fun.

I love to hear specific praises, ...and detailed prayers. The more specific you are, the more effective you will be, and this same principle applies to praise.

I truly wish for you to enjoy your times of praise. Though it's true that you must sometimes praise Me when you don't feel like it, it's even better if you really do feel like it. I want you to look forward to praying, because you know you'll have the opportunity to praise Me very specifically beforehand. It can be fun, spiritually uplifting, and even a bit challenging to take the time to tell Me how thankful you are for Me and exactly why.

Specific praise makes Me so happy, ...and brings happiness to both you and Me.

Praising doesn't always have to be a part of prayer--it can be something practiced throughout the day while you're working, talking, playing, or whatever. You should be integrating it into your conversations so that it just comes naturally--even when you find yourself discussing negative issues. In fact, praise is often the missing ingredient in such conversations that would bring the balance and solutions and wisdom you seek.

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(From: The Black-Bearded Barbarian--The life of George Leslie Mackay of Formosa; By Marian Keith (1912)

One evening some new faces looked up at him from his congregation in the little brick church. When the last hymn was sung the missionary stepped down from his pulpit and spoke to the strangers. They explained that they were from the next village. They had heard rumors of this new doctrine, and had been sent to find out more about it. They had been charmed with the singing, for that evening over two hundred voices had joined in a ringing praise to the new Jehovah-God. They wanted to hear more, they said, and they wanted to know what it was all about. Would Kai Bok-su and his students deign to visit their village too?

Would he? Why that was just what he was longing to do. He had been driven out of that village by dogs only a few weeks before, but a little thing like that did not matter to a man like Mackay. This village lay but a short distance away, being connected with their own by a path winding here and there between the rice-fields. Early the next evening Mackay formed a procession. He placed himself at its head, with A Hoa at his side. The students came next, and then the converts in a double row. And thus they marched slowly along the pathway singing as they went. It was a stirring sight. On either side the waving fields of rice, behind them the gleam of the blue ocean, before them the great towering mountains clothed in green. Above them shone the clear dazzling sky of a tropical evening. And on wound the long procession of Christians in a heathen land, and from them arose the glorious words:

O thou, my soul, bless God the Lord,

And all that in me is

Be stirred up his holy name

To magnify and bless.

And the heathen in the rice-fields stopped to gaze at the strange sight, and the mountains gave back the echo of that Name which is above every name.

And so, marching to their song, the procession came to the village. Everybody in the place had come out to meet them at the first sound of the singing. And now they stood staring, the men in a group by themselves, the women and children in the background, the dogs snarling on the outskirts of the crowd.

The congregation was there ready, and without waiting to find a place of meeting, right out under the clear evening skies, the young missionary told once more the great story of God and his love as shown through Jesus Christ. The message took the village by storm. It was like water to thirsty souls. The next day five hundred of them brought their idols to the missionary to be burned.

And now Mackay went up and down the Kap-tsu-lan plain from village to village as he had done before, but this time it was a triumphal march. And everywhere he went throngs threw away their idols and declared themselves followers of the true God.

He was overcome with joy.

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(Jesus speaking:) Praise is an underused weapon because you don't avail yourself of its true power and you don't fully understand how it works. In truth on this earth you will never grasp the immensity of how wonderful it is and how it moves My hand, but as you step out to use it more, I'll show you more. I know you feel you're weak in praise, and while that is true, the real issue is that you simply need to activate it inside of you more.

I have put in each man a desire to praise that needs to be awakened. Just as I have put a need for Me in every man, so I have also put in him the need to give reverence and show gratitude and praise. Those who do are blessed, and those who do so daily and frequently are blessed even more. So let your inner praises spring forth!

When you speak in tongues, your heart is expressing all the things you want to say to Me but don't know how to say. Your spirit brings to remembrance the wonderful things that I've done for you, things you might have forgotten to praise Me for consciously, but your spirit remembers and gives thanks.

It also exercises your humility, because it is humbling to speak in tongues.

Praise for many ...has merely become an opener to asking for something they want, and not a true expression of thankfulness and praise. If you stir yourselves up to remember My goodness, My many blessings to you, My love for you, then true praises from your heart will flow forth.

Something that would help you to have more joy, life, and fire in your praises is to pray for a refilling of the Holy Ghost. She will help you break free from the bonds that hold you down and keep you back from all that I would like to pour out on you. Your praises open the door for Me to pour out My blessings upon you, so if you're feeling a lack, maybe it's because you haven't opened the door sufficiently in the spirit through praise.

You must seek out your praise angel or angels. You must ask them how you can help them to help you, so that your praises are activated and your prayers are pushed along to answers. Claim a refilling of the Holy Ghost, not just today, but whenever you need it and are feeling a bit dry. According to your praise be it unto you!

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***(Jesus speaking:)* Praise is not just for My benefit. It also brings you many benefits.** As you praise, you prompt yourself to remember all the things that I do and have done, and that gives you the faith when you pray to really get the answers. Your faith can move a mountain, but before you lift anything so heavy, you must warm up, like any athlete who is preparing to run. To prepare, he goes through the different warm-up routines he has learned, the stretching or limbering up. The same goes for you and moving mountains in the spirit--the routines you have learned are the miracles you have witnessed Me accomplish in your life, and as you praise and acknowledge Me for those, it builds your faith and helps you to believe and understand what I am about to do for you. It's one of the ways you can focus your prayers more as well, and all of this helps you to have more faith and gets you in the habit of praising more.

(True story:) One Army wife came to me, convinced that her problem had but one solution. Her husband had developed an excessive drinking problem and for the past several years had been an alcoholic. Often he would pass out drunk on the living room floor where the wife or his teenage children would find him, stark naked. In this condition he'd also been found in the hallway of the apartment house where several other families lived.

In final desperation the wife decided to take the children and leave. Friends persuaded her to at least come talk to me first.

"Whatever you say, Chaplain, don't tell me to stay with him," she said. "I just can't do it."

"I don't care whether you stay with him or not," I said. "I just want you to thank God that your husband is like he is." Carefully I explained what the Bible had to say about thanking God for all things, and that if she tried it, God would be able to solve her problem in the best way.

She thought it sounded ridiculous, but finally agreed to kneel while I prayed that God would release in her enough faith to believe that He is a God of love and power who holds the universe in His hand.

At last she said, "I do believe."

Two weeks later I called her.

"I feel absolutely marvelous," she said. "My husband is a different man. He hasn't had a drink in two weeks."

"That's wonderful," I said. "I'd like to talk to him."

"What do you mean?" She sounded surprised.

"I just think it would be good if I talked to your husband about the power that is working in your lives."

"Didn't you tell him already?" She sounded puzzled.

"No, I haven't met him yet."

"Chaplain, this is a miracle," she cried out. "The day I was in your office he came home from work and for the first time in seven years he didn't go to the refrigerator for a beer. Instead he went into the living room and talked to the children. I was sure you had talked to him."

Our prayer of praise had released God's power to work in another person's life. The wife was openly crying over the telephone.

"Praise God, Chaplain," she sobbed, "Now I know God works out every detail of our lives."

***(Jesus speaking:)* It's just human nature to be lazy, to want to be comfortable, to avoid things that are uncomfortable.** Praising can be, and usually is, uncomfortable initially, both physically and spiritually. You have to stir yourself up; it requires effort. It's humbling. It's not always looked on as a cool thing to do. It kills your pride, and that's certainly uncomfortable for the moment.

But you must decide whether the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. I've told you a lot about the benefits, but really, you should just try it yourself.

The victories you've been seeking and searching for will come easier and faster. The troubles you've had will fall into perspective, and the solutions will be clearer. You'll be happier, you'll have more joy in living, more fulfillment and happiness in all you do. When you sit down to hear from Me, the answers will come easier. You'll grow to be more humble, and so you'll have greater access to the power of the keys, heavenly thought power, and all My spiritual gifts. You'll relate better to others because you'll have more love and more of My perspective. Your emotions will be more balanced, you'll roll with changes better, you'll adapt more easily to what I ask of you. That's just the tip of the iceberg of positive changes that praise brings, not to mention the bonus of receiving My blessings in much greater measure for your obedience, and because of the vacuum that praise creates in the spirit for Me and My blessings.

* * * *

(True story:) Since moving to this part of the city, I'd been having asthma attacks quite frequently and would often stay up till four o'clock in the morning battling it. One night when I was battling with my breathing and feeling really discouraged and frustrated about it, the Lord reminded me of a quote, "If you can't sleep, maybe the Lord wants you to pray."

So I started to pray for others and was also asking for His help to overcome this attack. Eventually I started praising Him and thanking Him for all He's done for me and for keeping me through so many attacks of the Enemy. I was telling Him how much I appreciate and love Him and really need Him. I started loving Him with the love words and pouring out my heart as I told Him how much I love Him. After a while, without realizing it, my breathing was back to normal and I was able to drift off to sleep!

With the next few attacks, I just started to praise the Lord and spend time loving Him instead of concentrating on my breathing, and the attacks would get less and less serious. Thank You Jesus! I learned that the Lord wants me to keep my eyes on Him instead of myself, and most of all He wants me to spend time with Him!

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Praise, call on the keys, and then watch Me perform! It's a winning combination that never fails!

You will feel the power of the keys--steady and confident, strong and unbeatable--as you praise Me and let your voice glorify Me. Whenever you feel discouraged or worried, bring on the power of the keys through your words of faith and praise. The keys rush to those who honor Me and glorify My Name.

When you praise Me, thank Me, and actively show your gratitude and thanks, I am compelled out of love to turn the keys of My supply and open to you the vaults of heavenly riches.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Through the power of prayer, the power of loving Me, and the power of praise, you will have the power to command all the forces of evil to be bound for a time, the power to work miracles in My Name, the power to use My will to fight for you in battle. You cannot fathom the tremendous power that has been made available to you! As you grow in faith and in Me, prepare to be astounded at the miracles I will work on your behalf.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Praise is one of the greatest powers in Heaven, and when you praise Me, you lift your eyes up, you refresh your spirit, you open yourself up to the healing balm of Heaven, and you are washed with My love and thankfulness for your praises.

* * * *

(From: The Black-Bearded Barbarian--The life of George Leslie Mackay of Formosa; By Marian Keith (1912)

It was an adventurous journey. But, wonderful though it seemed, they came through it safely. Poor Kai Bok-su's heart was torn as he saw the ravages the mob had made on his churches. But what a cheer his heart received when he found that persecution had strengthened the converts that were left and everywhere the heathen marveled that men should die for the faith the barbarian missionary had taught.

They were taken prisoners once for German spies, and led far out of their way. But they came back to Tamsui safely, having greatly cheered the faithful Christians who still were true to their Master, Jesus Christ. It was early in June, just one year from the opening of the war, that the French sailed away. They were disgusted with the whole affair, the commander of one vessel told Dr. Mackay, and they were all very glad it was over.

Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson and Dr. Mackay's family returned to their homes on the bluff, and work started up again with its old vigor.

But everywhere the heathen were in great glee. Christianity had been destroyed with the chapels, they were sure.

Wherever Mackay went, shouts of derision followed him, and everywhere he could hear the joyful cry "Long-tsong bo-khi!" which meant "The mission is wiped out!"

But strange though it may seem, the mission had never been stronger, and it soon began to assert itself. Dr. Mackay went at the work of repairing the lost buildings with all the force of his nature. First, he and Mr. Jamieson and A Hoa sat down and prepared a statement of their losses. This they sent to the commander-in-chief of the Chinese forces, who had been responsible for law and order. Without any delay or questioning of the missionaries' rights, the general sent Dr. Mackay the sum asked for--ten thousand Mexican dollars (about \$5000).

The next thing was to plan the new chapels and see to the building of them. And before the shouts of "Long-tsong bo-khi" had well started, they began to be contradicted by walls of brick or stone that rose up strong and sure to show that the mission had not been wiped out. Three of the chapels were commenced all at once--at Sintiam, at Bang-kah and at Sek-khau. Before anything was done Dr. Mackay and a party of his students went up to Sin-tiam to look over the site. They stood up on the pile of ruins, surrounded by the Christians, and a crowd of heathen came around gleefully to watch them in the hopes of seeing their despair.

But to their amazement the little company of Christians led by the wonderful Kai Bok-su, suddenly burst into a hymn of praise to God who had brought them safely through all their troubles:

Bless, O my soul, the Lord thy God,

And not forgetful be

Of all his gracious benefits

He hath bestowed on thee!

The heathen listened in wonder to the words of praise where they had expected lamentation, and they asked each other what was this strange power that made men so strong and brave.

And their amazement grew as the chapels, the lovely new chapels of stone or brick, began to rise from the ruins of the old ones. And not only did the old ones reappear, new and more beautiful, but as Dr. Mackay and his native preachers went here and there over the country others peeped forth like the hepaticas of springtime, until there were not only the forty original chapels, but in a few years the number had increased to sixty.

The triumphant shout that the mission had been wiped out ceased completely, and the people declared that they had been fools to try to destroy the chapels, for the result had been only bigger and better ones.

"Look now," said one old heathen, pointing a withered finger to the handsome spire of the Bang-kah chapel, that lifted itself toward the sky, "Look now, the chapel towers above our temple. It is larger than the one we destroyed."

His neighbors crowding about him and gazing up with superstitious awe at the spire, agreed.

"If we touch this one he will build another and a bigger one," remarked another man.

"We cannot stop the barbarian missionary," said the old heathen with an air of conviction.

"No, no one can stop the great Kai Bok-su," they finally agreed, and so they left off all opposition in despair.

Yes, the cry of "Long-tsong bo-khi" had died, and the answer to it was inscribed on the front of the splendid chapels that sprang up all over north Formosa. For, just above the main entrance to each, worked out in stucco plaster, was a picture of the burning bush, and around it in Chinese the grand old motto:

"Nec tamen consumebatur" ("Yet it was not consumed.")

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) I have put round about you a force field of angels and new spirit helpers who will fight for you. They are strong and beautiful and powerful. They are magnificent and awesome and gorgeous. They glow with the power of My Spirit, the power of victory, the power of defiance of the Evil One, the power of praise.

So know that even though you'll be tempted, you will not be the same. You will not have the same feelings of discouragement. You will not have the same feelings of hopelessness. You will not have this oppression of the Enemy, for I have defeated him and I have set you free. You are delivered! You are liberated!

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) **If you feel negative, act positive;** if you feel unattractive, act as if you're beautiful; if you feel uninspired, act inspired.

Remind yourself that you're in My perfect will, being used of Me in the way that I want, that you will grow in your place of service and that you will be very happy.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) You hold in your hand powerful high-beam "flashlights" that can pierce through any darkness. These lights are powered by My Word, by My voice of prophecy, by the power of praise and loving Me, and by the keys of the kingdom. Use the light you have to win many to Me and so expedite My second coming by doing your part.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) **When you praise Me it shows Me you love Me.** When praise comes from the heart, it expresses your love. Praise gives Me the reverence and honor that is My due. Praising Me is worshipping Me. Praise is something that all the angels and beasts and saints in Heaven do constantly; they praise, love, and adore Me. Praise fills the halls of Heaven! My throne is filled with praise.

Praise is also a weapon, like prayer, prophecy, and the keys. Praise is very powerful. It can protect you from attacks of the Enemy, or if you're already being attacked, release you from his clutches. Praise transports you from the earthly to the heavenly. It can release you from depression, sadness, anger and hate. It can strengthen you not only spiritually but physically.

As I have said, the weapons of your warfare are not carnal, but spiritual and mighty, and praise is one of those weapons. It makes you stronger in spirit, more yielded, more tuned in, more loving, happier, and more victorious. I dwell in the praises of My people! Your praises have drawing power, and the more you praise, the more power is released to you and surrounds you.

Praise calls down help from Heaven and surrounds you with angels and heavenly forces!--Just as I surrounded My children of old when they went to battle. They were armed with songs and praises as their only weapon against their enemies, and I went before them with My armies and slew all their enemies (2Chr. 20). Your praises can slay all your enemies and do battle for you and get the victory.

Your praises surround you with a force field both spiritually and physically. It transports your mind into heavenly places. It can protect you from pain, eliminate fear, and defeat the Enemy. Praise is another weapon, mighty and powerful. Just as I filled the temple with My presence when the Israelites praised Me, so will I fill your home and your heart and your thoughts with My presence when you praise Me, and I will be with you. *(End of message.)*

* * * *

(True story:) A young soldier collapsed with a serious heart problem and was taken to the Fort Benning Hospital. He was released, but had to come back for frequent checkups and eventually was scheduled to go to another hospital for heart surgery.

The news filled him with despair, and he began drinking. His despair increased until he decided to leave. He stole clothes from some of the men in the barracks and took off in the First Sergeant's car, which he wrecked totally.

The unhappy soldier was caught and put in the stockade to await trial. There another soldier led him to Jesus. I went to see him, and he was still feeling depressed and afraid that he had messed up his life so thoroughly that he couldn't be of any use to anyone.

"Your sins are forgiven and forgotten," I said. "Don't think of your past as a chain around your neck. Thank God for every detail of your life and believe He has permitted all of these things in order to bring you to the place where you are now."

Together we searched the Scriptures for God's word on all things working out for those who love Him.

"And that doesn't just mean things that happen after you've asked God to take over your life," I said. "God is able to use even our past mistakes and failures when we release them to Him with thanksgiving."

He understood, and began to thank God in earnest for everything that had happened. As his trial neared, his defense attorney told him the best he could hope for was a five-year sentence and dishonorable discharge. The soldier remained undaunted and insisted that whatever happened, God had full control of his life and would work out whatever would be for his good.

The General Court-martial had a surprise ending. General Court-martial is never held unless the military authorities believe that the crime warrants severe punishment. This soldier was sentenced to six months in the local stockade and no discharge from the Army.

With Chaplain Curry Vaughan I went to visit him in the stockade. We thought we were there to encourage him; instead he encouraged us. He was filled with joy and it was catching. Soon the stockade rang with our laughter. The young soldier couldn't stand still; he laughed and ran and skipped around the visiting room.

Before we got ready to leave we asked how he was feeling. He had been scheduled for heart surgery and medically speaking was still in need of attention. He confessed that he felt very weak physically, and often his heart was troubling him. But he said: "It is wonderful. God is taking care of me."

We asked if he would like prayer for healing, and he said:
"Please do; I believe God will heal me."

We placed our hands on him and believed that God, through Jesus, was right there healing him. The soldier smiled radiantly and said: "I believe it is done."

A few weeks later I talked to the man's Company Commander.

"I believe it's a waste of government money to keep this man in the stockade."

"Why, Chaplain?" he said.

"He isn't the same man who stole clothes and a car and wrecked it. He's completely changed."

The Commander agreed and had the man released. A week later I asked him how he felt.

"Chaplain, I used to get tired after walking one hundred yards. Now I can run and I never seem to get tired. God has healed me."

* * * *

***(Jesus speaking:)* All praise is powerful, and the Devil hates every word of praise that comes forth from your mouth.** But he especially hates specific praise, retaliation praise, when he's attacking you with a particular battle and you turn right around and sock it to him with your praise--praising Me for the specific things he's trying to use to attack you. That kills his pride and mortally wounds his spirit.

Praising in general terms for anything you have to be thankful for or your many blessings does lift your spirit and help you to feel more victorious. All praise is good, but when you take the specific attack the Enemy is hitting you with and turn around and transform it into a praise to Me, looking at the situation positively and thanking Me for whatever you can think of that is related to the battle he's attacking you with, this is indeed a fiery sword that pierces his heart to its innermost depths and forces him to retreat, screaming with pain from your attack through praise.

* * * *

(Prayer:) I activate the power of the keys of praise, dear Husband, which You have promised are powerful and mighty! I praise You even for the battles, because I want to fight the Enemy with this powerful spiritual weapon of praise. I want to see him defeated and driven back with the power of praise! I want him to feel my fiery sword of praise piercing him to the heart! I want to turn his attacks back on his own head!

I praise You, Jesus, for the battles--even the discouragement and depression I feel--because I know it's driving me to You. I feel helpless, weak, defenseless and feeble, but that makes me depend on Your power to help me, deliver me, and bring the victory. I praise You that nothing is impossible for You, and that You can destroy the Devil and all his demons and free me from their attacks. I praise You that no matter how hard I'm hit, You can deliver me.

I praise You that through these battles I'm learning how to fight! I praise You that though the Enemy is trying to defeat me, You've given me the power to rise above. I praise You, because as a result of these battles I will be stronger in spirit and not ignorant of the Devil's devices. I praise You that when I am weak, You are strong. I praise You and You alone, because the Enemy's attacks are puny and his power is weak when compared with Your mighty majesty and strength.

I praise and depend on You, my awesome Savior, my great and terrible Destroyer of Evil, my Shield and Defense, the Rock of my salvation, my wonderful Deliverer and Redeemer!

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Just like cocoa beans there on Earth are high in chemicals that can elevate your mood and give you an uplift, so is praise. Through praising you receive positiveness, a high or lift in the spirit that will brighten your day, improve your mood, and help to cleanse your heart, mind and body from depression.

Unlike earthly chocolate that often has a lot of sugar and fat in it, causing you to be careful about overindulging, there are no limits to how much you can praise. Praise as much as you like, because the benefits of this spiritual phenomenon only increase with time and use!

Pamper your soul and satiate your heart and spirit with the perks of praise! There's no such thing as overindulgence! It'll only make you feel better!

* * * *

(True story:) Wherever I went I now shared what I had discovered about the power of praise. I was beginning to learn that praise was not just a form of worship or prayer, but also a way of waging spiritual warfare.

Chaplain Curry Vaughan, Jr., had begun to experience the power of praise in his own life. Soon after he had started praising God for his difficulties, he arrived home one evening to learn that his two-year-old daughter had swallowed a glassful of mineral spirits, a type of high-grade turpentine. She had already been rushed to the hospital. Curry jumped into his car and raced full speed to be with her. His mind was swirling with thoughts of fear and worry. He suddenly realized what he was doing, slowed the car to normal speed, and praised the Lord for what had happened.

At the hospital they pumped out his daughter's stomach, x-rayed her and told Curry that two things were bound to happen. First, she would run a high fever that night; second, there was a ninety-five percent chance that she would develop pneumonia.

Curry and his wife Nancy took their daughter home, prepared to watch her very closely as the doctors had ordered.

At home Curry took his daughter in his arms and prayed: "Heavenly Father, I know that Satan has tried to attack me once again, and I have praised You! Now I claim in the name of Jesus that Virginia will not get a fever and she will not get pneumonia." The next morning Virginia woke up as bright and chipper as ever. She had suffered no ill effects.

* * * *

Keys of Praise

Call on the keys of praise to help you see the good even when you don't feel like it, and you will be making use of one of the most important spiritual weapons in your arsenal.

*

Use the powerful, dynamic approach of praise and calling on the keys, which the Devil hates and cannot resist, and you will see mighty miracles.

*

When the Enemy holds up a list of your lacks, failings, and weaknesses, slam the door in his face by praising Me and claiming the power of the keys, and he will be forced to flee.

*

When you feel too weak and discouraged to praise, call on the power of the keys to give you the strength, and as you praise, you will gain the victory.

*

While you're praising Me and claiming the power of the keys, you won't be able to think about anything negative and the Devil won't be able to lie to you.

*

When you're having problems, sing, shout, praise Me, and claim the keys of rising above! The Devil will have to flee, because you're resisting him with the power of praise and actively fighting against him with a force that he can't beat!

*

Keep your eyes off yourself and your situation, and on Me and the keys. Praise Me even when you don't feel like it, and I will take care of the situation and bring about "Romans 8:28" even from the most trying of circumstances.

*

Praise, prayer, the Word and the keys will sustain not only your spiritual life, but also your physical life.

*

Call on the keys for power and victory in every situation, and then praise Me for answering.

* * * *

(True story:) 18-SEP-2018 --A Personal Praise Testimony:

A few weeks ago I got very flustered and pressured about something that I felt I was being pulled in both ways and centre. I lost my cool, and felt very bad afterwards. Then that was an opening to the enemy's attack. I had let myself believe the lie that some things were "too hard" for me, rather than having faith that with Jesus helping I could manage anything. I got hit hard with not just an emotional attack, but physical. I felt like the life was taken out of me and I could hardly even move—and had no desire to either. I felt incredible drowsy and was good for nothing for the rest of the day.

The next morning when I woke, the first visions that flashed to me was my angelic warrior-trainer that helps me know how to fight, and corrects me too so I say on track, said joyfully with a smile: We won!

I didn't know it was going to be a long hard battle for them in the spirit, because I had let the enemy in through lack of faith and praise and letting the Lord do the work and take the pressure of life.

When I went to sleep that night I honestly didn't know what condition I was going to be in that next morning. I had no strength or will for anything. Sometimes a night of sleep helps to reset things. But I thought it went beyond just physical weakness. And apparently it did.

That morning I felt rested and fine spiritually, and it was because the angels had fought for me. Just seeing that smile in my mind gave me courage to get up and face the day—and face the Lord too, as I needed to get things right and get back on track. I knew I had sinned in the reactions I had, which meant I needed more time with the Master.

So I took good long time with Him, and also I asked my angelic fighter-trainer what I did wrong, why did I react that way, what had happened.

After explaining to me what I needed to learn, he said that the physical feeling that had come over me was not natural but from the enemy and the only way to fight that is through praise. He said what I should have done was to start praising the Lord and not stop until the strength came back to me. He said this kind of attack could go on for days, weeks, or months, if allowed to and not fought against, making one completely useless. I remembered that.

It wasn't too long later until I got to put it into practice. A week or so later I felt that "gutted" feeling, and could hardly move or desire to. My spirit had gone from me. I had all power gone. I can't remember what brought it on, but I knew what I was meant to do. So summoning every bit of strength I could muster, I nearly crawled to my suitcase on the bottom shelf and rummaged through it to find a book of written praises to the Lord. That was the only thing I was focusing on—I was going to praise, all day if need be. I managed at last to find the book and make my way outside and sit on a chair in the sun.

The children were, thankfully, happily playing outside there too. I opened the book and was going to read all the way through it—and go on to the next and the next books of praise if that is what it took. I really wasn't going to do a single thing but praise and praise. I read the first praise page, then the next, obediently just doing it.

When I got to page 20 I felt a slight bit of strength come to me, enough that I could walk back to the room and get my hand held device that had files of God's Word on it. I returned outside and began to read to take in the Word for added strength. With the little bit of added strength I felt, I could then go and put some Bible audios on my mp3 player and listen to it while I hand ground the grain to make flat bread and some lunch for the children.

With the flat bread I was able to part take of a nice nourishing meal, including a simple communion between me and the Lord. By the time the meal was over, I was back to normal again. Praise had pulled me through! It gave the strength to take in the Word, and the Word gave the strength to help others and keep on going.

* * * *

Claiming the keys and praising Me is just what you need to lift you out of the pit which the Devil is trying to cast you into!

*

Praise Me with your whole heart, and by the power of the keys I will work miracles on your behalf.

*

The keys of praise and rising above are connected, and when activated, create a powerful combination to defeat the Enemy.

*

Praise, call on the keys, and then watch Me perform! It's a winning combination that never fails!

*

Wield the offensive keys of praise, which will instantly cripple the Enemy and foil his agenda.

* * * *

***(Jesus speaking:)* Yes, the keys of praise can do what I'm advertising.**

The keys of praise are your all-around undefeatable weapon. You can use them in any battle and they will help to bring the victory. They can enhance any prayer; they can augment any other specific key you claim. The keys of praise enhance the power of all of the other specific keys. For example, if you're praying for supply, claim the keys of supply and the keys of praise. Adding the ingredient of the keys of praise to any prayer you pray will not go to waste. It will make your prayer more powerful, not less powerful. The keys of praise are effective in every battle, and multiply the power of your prayer a thousand times. So if you're praying for organization, supply, healing, or any other request, the keys of praise will add a unique boost of power to your prayer. The keys of praise are an important addition to any prayer. Praise is the voice of faith, and using the keys of praise is an expression of your faith that I will answer you, no matter what you are requesting of Me.

(True story:) For many years my heart's desire was to learn to use a computer, which is not so easy if you're blind. I knew of a piece of equipment that could convert the text on a computer screen into Braille; but it is very costly and very delicate. So when I found out about screen-reading software that converts text to speech, I was more interested in that.

Though not nearly as expensive as the Braille device, it was still quite costly, but I knew that there's no limit to God's ability to supply our needs, as Philippians 4:19 says. So in late 2007, shortly after I moved with my dad and other missionaries to a new place, I promised the Lord that if He would somehow provide the screen-reading software I needed and would help me learn to use it, I would use these skills for witnessing via email, writing, etc.

Not long after I made this vow, we were informed of a nearby center for the blind and visually impaired that offered the screen-reading software for a very reasonable price, as well as a course on how to use it. I went there with my dad to check the place out and meet the directors, who were very kind.

They invited us to the school Christmas party, which was just a few days away. I volunteered to sing Christmas songs at the event, and they gladly agreed.

The party was a wonderful success, praise the Lord! Someone else on our team went along to read a Christmas reflection to the audience after the songs. Then we invited everyone present to pray the salvation prayer, and they did.

Afterwards, while seated at a table with the directors enjoying a delicious meal, we asked them about my possibly coming to the school once a month, apart from my showing up for computer lessons, to share songs and motivational input with the students. They were happy with the idea. I began taking the computer course as soon as I could, and also began giving the motivational classes, which were well received.

The screen-reading technology I was being taught is operated by keyboard shortcuts. This is much easier for the blind and visually impaired than using a mouse. Everything on the screen is spoken by a digital voice. My job was to learn the proper keyboard commands to carry out different functions and manage different programs. While this was somewhat challenging, I had learned to touch-type on a Braille keyboard when I was younger; so I was already quite familiar with a standard keyboard. I was pleasantly surprised when the instructor told me I was one of his best students.

Before I could get my own copy of the screen-reading software, I had to first get my own PC. I diligently practiced the commands I learned in each class with my Braille keyboard, until the Lord provided a laptop for me. Since the talking software speaks back to me everything I type, I did not need to stick Braille labels on the laptop keyboard.

After a while, due to changes in the school, they had to stop the course, and we also were unable to continue with the motivational classes. But lasting friendships were forged with some of the students, and we continued to minister to them individually.

By this time I'd made considerable progress, and had begun to regularly send out spiritually feeding material to people via email, which was bearing good fruit. Though I was disappointed that my computer course had to be stopped and I had no idea what else to do in order to advance further in this area, I saw the situation as an opportunity to practice praising God in all things. I also repeatedly reminded myself of Galatians 6:9.

Sometime later, one of our close friends introduced me to a blind friend of his who was visiting from Canada. We talked for a while, and he turned out to be very knowledgeable about both basic and advanced computer skills. He gave me lots of help and even continued teaching me via phone and email after he returned to Canada.

A few years ago, when my first laptop gave out after several years of use, the Lord provided a new one with a more recent version of Windows. Though I was happy about this, I found out, to my disappointment, that the assistive software I'd been using all those years was not compatible with the new operating system.

There I was, back at square one. Still, with the Lord's help, I praised and thanked Him for this development, and continued believing He had a solution. Only days later, I found out about a newer screen reading program that works almost exactly like the one I'd been using, and is also offered free of charge. I'm still using this program today. Once again the Lord marvelously came through for me.

Today my computer skills are still improving and I continue using them to minister to people via email and for writing articles like this one. This whole process has taught me that the obstacles that appear in our way are often allowed by the Lord to test our patience and determination. With each obstacle I faced on this journey, I had to choose to see them not as reasons to freak out and panic, but as opportunities for God to work, and He always did. As the saying goes, "Victory belongs to the most persevering."

* * * *

When we praise God we thank Him *for* our situation, not in *spite* of it.

We are not trying to avoid our dilemmas. Rather Jesus is showing us a way to overcome them.

Praise is not another way of bargaining with the Lord. We don't say, "Now we've praised You in the middle of this mess, so get us out of it!"

God is calling us to praise Him, and the highest form of praise is the one Paul exhorts us to give in Hebrews 13:15: "By (Christ) therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."

The sacrifice of praise is offered when all is darkness around us. It is offered of a heavy heart, unto God because He is God and Father and Lord.

As we begin to praise Him, His Holy Spirit begins to fill our beings more and more.

To continually praise Him means a steady decreasing of self and an increase of the presence of Christ within us, until with Peter we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

* * * *

52. Praise Him when the sun is shining,
When the winds of trouble blow,
When you see no silver lining
On the clouds that hang so low.

Praise illumines clouds of sorrow,
Turns the gray skies into gold
Giving promise of a morrow
Bright with blessings manifold.

Praise Him when your load is heavy
And the day no comfort brings,
Then your burden God will carry,
Bear you as on eagles' wings.

God delights to have us praise Him,
And believe His Holy Word;
And He knoweth them that trust Him,
For they always praise the Lord.

--Ida A. Guirey

* * * *

(True story:) . A doctor visiting a leper colony heard an aged sufferer singing cheerily; yet he knew that her condition was serious.

"Well, Mother," he remarked to her, "you must be feeling pretty well today--you're singing to happily."

She turned a face full of suffering towards him & answered, "Oh Doctor, my sores hurt so badly I must sing!"

* * * *

(True story:) . A violent thunderstorm once preserved the town of Basle from the shells of the Russians & Hungarians who were besieging the place. The pious people in gratitude to God, as a thankoffering, founded a school for the training of Christian missionaries. This was the origin of the great Basle Missionary Society which sends out hundreds of missionaries. They made their thanksgiving practical.

* * * *

(True story:) Dr. Alexander Whyte of Edinburgh was famous for his pulpit prayers. He always found something to thank God for, even in bad times. One stormy morning a member of his congregation thought to himself, "The preacher will have nothing to thank God on a wretched morning like this." But Whyte began his prayer, "We thank Thee, O God, that it is not always like this."

* * * *

(True story:) Matthew Henry, the famous scholar, was once accosted by thieves & robbed of his purse. He wrote these words in his diary:

"Let me be thankful first, because I was never robbed before; second, because, although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because, although they took my all, it was not much; & fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.

* * * *

(True story:)

. George Matheson, the well-known blind preacher of Scotland, now with the Lord, says: "My God, I have never thanked Thee for my `thorn'! I have thanked Thee a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my `thorn'; I have been looking forward to a world where I shall get compensation for my cross as itself a present glory. Teach me the glory of my cross; teach me the value of my `thorn'. Show me that I have climbed to Thee by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow."

* * * *

Happiness comes when we stop wailing about the troubles we have, & offer thanks for all the troubles we don't have.

To be content, just think how happy you would be if you lost everything you have right now, & then got it back again!

Happiness is in the heart, not in the circumstances.

* * * *

***(Jesus speaking:)* When you use your demon-defeating weapons of the keys of praise, they will:**

A

- Answer your call.
- Accomplish each task on your to-do list.
- Achieve your goals.
- Activate stronger faith.
- Always win the battle.
- Attack Arakan.

B

- Boost your natural abilities.
- Build on your strengths and anointing.
- Blast every negative thought to Hell where it belongs.
- Beat up the Devil's imps.

Bounce you into the joy of the Lord.

Bash Bacchus.

Blast Baal to bits.

C

Conquer Satan in every battle.

Carry out your work with excellence.

Create a force field of protection around you.

Complete your thoughts and help you remember things.

Constrain Oplexicon.

Change your mindsets.

Cut the Devil to the heart.

Crush the imps that pester you.

D

Do whatever you ask of Me.

Damn the deactivation demons.

Demolish the impossibilities and make room for My miracles.

Devastate your enemies.

Drown out Satan's voice.

Dissipate discouragement.

Defy the impossible.

Detonate the demons.

E

Escort you into My presence.

Execute My highest will.

Ensure victory no matter what the obstacles.

Energize your body, mind, and spirit.

Eliminate every iota of the Devil's influence.

Eradicate doubts.

F

Fight for you and win the battle.

Fix the problems.

Figure out the answers.

Find things you lost.

Fry the Enemy's circuitry.
Force the fiends of Hell to retreat.
Foil your foes.

* * * *

(True story:) This past month I've been trying to put the praise power principle into action-namely trying not to react negatively to undesirable events. It's been quite challenging, but also quite fun to learn to rise above the physical situations and to look to the Lord at those unlikely times. There were three specific incidents where the Lord turned things around when I consciously stopped and began praising. Each one was more exciting than the last.

The first incident began while I was taking a shower. Before my shower, I had forgotten to take out my tiny crystal and gold earrings, which my son had given me one birthday. They're very special to me, and I hardly ever wear them. After my shower I touched my ear and noticed that one of my earrings was gone. I checked the shower, bathroom, and bedroom but with no success. I traced my steps back to all the places in the house that I had been in that day, but I couldn't find it.

I prayed to find it, and I searched the bathroom again, then outside the bathroom ... but then I remembered the ABC praise keys. Under the letter "F," it says, "finds things you lost" . That was interesting. So I decided to thank the Lord for finding it for me. After my praise time, I once again walked into the bathroom, and to my amazement, right there on the floor in plain view was the missing earring. I could hardly believe it as after my shower I had squeegeed the floor, pushing all the water into the drain and then dry mopped it. But there lay my earring, in the middle of the floor!

* * * *

G

Guard you from feelings of discouragement, frustration, and negative thoughts.

Generate a feeling of well-being.

Give you unexpected strength.

Gather spiritual forces to come to your rescue.
Gain the upper hand.
Glorify Me.
Gas the ghouls of gloom and despair.

H

Help you overcome in spite of everything.
Hold back premature persecution.
Hinder the Hinderer.
Hurt and wound the Imp.
Hallow you about with My angels.
Hammer down the hordes of evil.
Handcuff the Hairy One.

I

Inoculate you from the Enemy's venom.
Improve any situation.
Increase your productivity.
Infuse you with the positive medicine of My Spirit.
Invigorate you from head to toe.
Illuminate your mind with My thoughts.

J

Juggle your work and help you multitask.
Join your mind with My mind.
Jump to encourage you when you feel down.
Junk the Punk.
Jerk you out of depression's pit.
Jam the Enemy's communication system.

K

Keep you on the cutting edge of the new moves of My Spirit.
Keep you on a positive track.
Knock the Devil for a loop.
Kick you in the pants and remind you to look on the positive.
Knit your thoughts with your spirit helpers.
Knock the Enemy out of commission.

(True story:) Nov 15, 2018 --The dance experience:

Yesterday I was having a time of communing and thanking Jesus for His give of life; the gift of the Cross. I read Isaiah 53 slowly, pondering it. Then I got to read Matthew 27 which is of the passion and life gift of Christ. I was remembering how when some of the Ka Do's (From China, with Harold Baker) would see visions of Christ on the Cross, and be reminded of His gift of love, they would cry and be very sad; then they would praise and rejoice because of the resurrection. When I was thanking Jesus for His sacrifice, I felt down and a weight. But I realised that I need to do the rejoicing part too, to make it complete. He wants us to be happy and have the joy of the Lord. I have been having a hard time with that lately. So I then read Matthew 28 of the resurrection, and Psalm 32 (and verses 1 & 11 were very applicable in it).

PSA.32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

PSA.32:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

I raised my hands to praise the Lord in tongues and such. When in that meeting, that I read about, then they received the Holy Spirit after the rejoicing and praise. It seems a complete thing to kneel at the cross, then to praise, then to receive the Holy Spirit—then I guess go and work for the Lord. Many times when they received a Holy Spirit empowerment they would dance in the spirit. They would hardly know what they were doing, but the Spirit would move and angels would dance, and the enemy would be driven away from their midst. I had wished for some days now that I could know what it was like to have the Holy Spirit dance through me. It would be a fun manifestation.

Anyway, when praising Him then for the resurrection and wishing to be joyful I got to “dance”. However, the tape player was gone. I wondered why He said to dance when He knew there wasn't a player to put on music. I guess I thought I needed it in order to dance. But He said again, “Dance”.

So here was my chance to let the Spirit dance through me. A beat or rhythm started in my head and my body got moving and moves were shown to me, and dance I did. A freedom moment! I can dance without electricity or sound! Will come in handy in many situations. Let the music of Heaven be given to me, and the trainers of Heaven instruct me in the moves, and let it be in praise and glory and humility of worship before Jesus, my Lord and desire.

I left that time of communion happy; and the weighted feeling was gone. The exercise was good for the mood; seeing the miracle was good for my spirit's inspiration.

L

Lift your spirit.
Look after all your needs.
Lead you in the ways of My Spirit.
Launch happy thoughts into your atmosphere.
Let you in on My secrets.
Lethally wound Lethargy.

M

Make molehills out of mountains.
Make sure your priorities are balanced.
Marshal My forces to fight for you.
Morph into a praisemobile to get you to your destination faster.
Minimize ungodly and negative influences.
Move the hand of God to fight for you.
Mortally wound every foe.

N

Never fail.
Nurse you when you're sick or discouraged.
Neutralize the Enemy's poisonous darts.
Nuke Satan's strongholds.
Not desert you.
Nullify condemnation.

O

Open the door to My Spirit.
Organize your schedule.
Obtain whatever you need.
Obliterate Obstacon.
Overcome fear and shyness.
Outsmart even the most outrageous opposition.

* * * *

(True story:) While in the process of changing a chip in our cell phone, we misplaced the chip and couldn't remember where we had left it. We did a thorough cleanup of the room, turning most everything inside-out, and then turning what was left inside-out--but to no avail.

We were reminded of the testimony of the lady who'd lost her crystal earring and finally found it after using praise. We decided to try it. We praised and called on the key of "seek and ye shall find." We told the Lord we were sorry for not doing that sooner, and right then we spotted the chip in the corner of the duvet cover! It is possible to find things that are lost with praise and the keys!

* * * *

P

Protect your thoughts.
Pep-talk you through any difficulty and on to the victory.
Prepare your destiny.
Preempt the Enemy's strikes against you.
Push Lucifer over the edge.
Put down pride.
Prevail over all the evil plans of Pan.

Q

Quiet the voice of the Enemy.

Quell all your fears.
Quicken to you your memory work.
Quench thoughts of self-pity.
Quash Hell's puny army.

R

Rush to your side.
Resolve issues.
Require the forces of darkness to flee.
Rip the Ol' Boy apart.
Resist and reflect the Enemy's attacks back at him.
Restore peace to your spirit.

S

Slam the door in the Devil's face.
Safeguard you from falling prey to the Devil's devices.
Start new circuitry to rewire your way of thinking.
Strengthen your defenses.
Sock it to the Selvegion.
Shatter Satan's lies to smithereens.
Slash sensitivity.
Shred Satan to ribbons.
Subvert the strongholds of the Slimy Snake.
Smash the delusions of the Devil.

T

Trigger victory.
Thrash every demon that tries to hinder you.
Transport you into the realm of the spirit.
Torture the Devil.
Transform your nature.
Torment the demons of depression.
Thwart the Enemy's plans.
Turn the demons away, shrieking in pain and fear.
Trash the mean Monster.

U

Unlock the door to greater faith.
Utilize the full power of Heaven in conjunction with the other weapons
of the spirit.
Upgrade your faith.
Unravel the secrets of Heaven.
Undo the Devil's damage.
Unveil the truth in any situation.
Undermine every effort of the Enemy.

* * * *

A brother and I were returning home after a day of witnessing. It was raining quite hard, and we were waiting under the bus stop shelter. We saw our bus approaching, and it began to slow down. But then, as we approached the door, the bus driver impatiently took off. It was quite odd, and my witnessing partner commented, "See, the buses aren't as good as they used to be!" To which I heartily agreed.

But then we remembered to praise, so started thanking the Lord for the bus leaving us, and for the rain, etc. Suddenly some friends who had been in town getting their computer fixed, came running towards the bus shelter where we were.

Apparently they had called my son to pick them up. It just so happened that he had been out in town driving some teens to a beach party, but due to the rain they were returning home, and as their home is only a few blocks away from where we were, it was simple for him to pick us up and take us all home.

* * * *

V

Voice My blessings.
Verify My Word to your satisfaction.
Vaporize the vile Viper.
Validate the truth.
Vastly multiply your prayer power.
Vanquish the Vandari.
Vault you over any hurdle.

W

Win, and not lose.

Wipe out any negative habits and replace them with positive ones.

Write all your communications through you.

Whack the Ol' Creep right where it hurts.

Weave beautiful blessings into the tapestry of your life.

Wallop Apotheon.

Wipe out the demons who oppose you.

Wash away every trace of evil.

X

X off anything negative.

X-tend a helping hand in your time of need.

X-pand your horizons.

X-tol My virtues.

X-pedite your spiritual progress.

X-ceed your every expectation.

X-onerate you and set you free.

Y

Yield wonderful results.

Yell victory in the face of the Enemy.

Yearn for and attract My Spirit.

Yank the rug from under your enemies.

Yoke you to My love as never before.

Z

Zap every lie of the Enemy.

Zip up the foul mouth of the Devil and his imps.

Zero in on and enhance My happy thoughts.

Zonk your Adversary.

Zealously fight for you in the spirit.

Zoom in and destroy every design of the Evil One.

* * * *

(True story:) Jim's father had been an alcoholic for thirty years. All those years Jim's mother, and later Jim and his young wife, had prayed that God would heal him, but with no apparent result. Jim's father refused to admit that he had a problem with alcohol, and stalked out in anger if anyone ever mentioned religion to him.

One day Jim heard me speak about the power that is released when we begin to praise God for everything in our lives instead of only pleading with Him to change the circumstances that hurt us. It struck him that he had never tried praising God for his father's condition. Excitedly he shared the thought with his wife.

"Honey, let's thank God that Dad's alcoholism is part of His wonderful plan for Dad's life!"

For the rest of that day they gave thanks and praised God for every aspect of the situation, and by evening they felt a new sense of excitement and expectation.

The next day the parents came over for the usual Sunday dinner visit. Always before, Jim's father had cut the visit as short as possible, leaving right after dinner. This time, over a cup of coffee, he suddenly asked a pointed question.

"What do you think about this Jesus Revolution?" He turned to Jim. "I saw something about it on the news last night. Is it just a fad, or is something happening to those kids?"

The question led to a lengthy and open discussion about Christianity. The elder couple didn't leave till late in the evening.

Within weeks Jim's father came to admit his drinking problem, turned for help to Jesus, and was completely healed. He now joins the rest of the family in telling others what praising God can do!

"Just think," Jim said to me. "For thirty years we prayed for God to change Dad. We spent only one day praising Him for the situation and look what happened!"

* * * *

The Benefits of Praise! -A list from Jesus

(Jesus speaking:)

* The victories you've been seeking and searching for will come easier and faster.

* The troubles you've had will fall into perspective, and the solutions will be clearer.

* You'll be happier, you'll have more joy in living, more fulfillment and happiness in all you do.

* When you sit down to hear from Me, the answers will come easier.

* You'll grow to be more humble, and so you'll have greater access to the power of the keys, heavenly thought power, and all My spiritual gifts.

* You'll relate better to others because you'll have more love and more of My perspective.

* Your emotions will be more balanced, you'll roll with changes better, you'll adapt more easily to what I ask of you.

That's just the tip of the iceberg of positive changes that praise brings, not to mention the bonus of receiving My blessings in much greater measure for your obedience, and because of the vacuum that praise creates in the spirit for Me and My blessings.

Praising can be, and usually is, uncomfortable initially, both physically and spiritually. You have to stir yourself up; it requires effort. It's humbling. It's not always looked on as a cool thing to do. It kills your pride, and that's certainly uncomfortable for the moment.

But you must decide whether the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. I've told you a lot about the benefits, but really, you should just try it yourself.

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:) Throw yourself into a praise revolution, seek Me about what's holding you back, make commitments to change, and then praise Me at every opportunity, and see if it doesn't completely transform your life—physically, spiritually, emotionally, in every way!

(Jesus speaking:) The very act of praising actually rejuvenates your body and causes great strength to flow through you.

* * * *

***(Jesus speaking:)* The power of praise and positiveness is contagious. So be a carrier!** If you've been negative about yourself in the past, turn over a new leaf in your life and ask the Lord to transform you into someone who is so praiseful and positive that you'll be able to influence others' lives for the better. It **is** possible. You can change--and not just slightly, but you can change drastically. What was once your weakness can become your strength! I know it's possible, because I've personally seen some incessant negative thinkers overcome their nature with the will to change and the Lord's unfailing help.

* * * *

Praise is an important antidote to negativity. Using the weapon of praise is probably the most important thing you can do if you're barraged with negativity. Even if that's the only spiritual weapon you use, I guarantee you'll give the Enemy a beating in the spirit.

* * * *

(True story:) One couple heard me speak on praising God for everything and went home quite disturbed. For months they had grieved over the condition of their daughter who had been committed to a mental institution and had been diagnosed as hopelessly insane.

Prayer groups across the country had been asked to intercede for her, and daily the parents had pleaded with God on their knees to heal their daughter. Her condition remained unchanged.

Their initial response to the challenge that they should praise God for the condition of their daughter had left them distraught and unhappy.

But finally they decided, "We have nothing to lose, do we? Why don't we try it?"

They knelt together. "Dear God," the husband began, "we know that You love us and that You love our daughter even more than we do. We're going to trust that You're working out in her life what You know is best for her; so we thank You for her sickness, thank You that she's in the hospital, thank You for the doctors who haven't found a way to help her. We praise You for Your wisdom and love toward us ... "

The longer they prayed that day, the more they became convinced that God was indeed doing what was best.

The next morning the hospital psychiatrist called.

"Sir, there's been a remarkable change in your daughter," he said. "I suggest you come and see her."

Within two weeks she was released from the hospital.

A year later a young man came up to me after a meeting. He introduced himself as the girl's brother and told me that she was married, expecting a baby, and "is the happiest girl in the world!"

* * * *

***(Jesus speaking:)* Make a continual and consistent effort to fill your mind, heart, soul and spirit, and even your body--your eyes, your ears, and your mouth--with fervent, sincere, and liberating praise to Me.** If you only praised more, and used the weapon of active praise to Me, you would not struggle as much, for the Enemy would not be able to enter in with his lies and deceits when you are fully occupied with praise and love for Me.

Force yourself to praise Me more out loud. Praise Me privately and praise Me publicly. Don't be ashamed to lift your arms in love and honor of Me, and praise Me with all of your heart. Praise Me at every opportunity and praise Me even when all seems hopeless and you feel defeated, discouraged, and fearful. Memorize key promises on praise and let them fill your heart and run through your mind constantly. Sing songs of praise to Me; give Me your kisses and your caresses in the form of loving and adoring Me at every opportunity.

Remember, you don't have to feel inspired to praise Me. In fact, praising Me is something that you should do all the more when you **don't** feel like it. If and when you feel resistant to praising Me, know that the Enemy is really attacking you, because he's about to be defeated. So when you feel like that, it's a serious indication that you need to praise Me even more vigorously and fervently.

* * * *

I think sometimes we underestimate the power of praise and how tremendously effective it is in bringing the Lord's Spirit into our lives, enabling us to resist the attacks of the Enemy, and enhancing our example to others by helping us to be more positive, more cheerful, and more uplifting to those around us.

The Lord wants us to praise Him in all situations. If we pray desperately and really ask the Lord to help us, and set our minds to it, I think we could all become a lot more praiseful. And not only would it make the Lord a lot happier, but it would make all of us a lot happier too!

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:)

1. Empower Me through your praise. If you send a full-throttle, out-of-bounds, with-all-your-heart praise, then I am freed to respond in like manner. However, if your praise is nothing more than a piddling squeak praise, or if it's got the weights of personal agenda and personal conditions attached to it, then there's little that I can do. Determine to praise Me because you love Me; let that be your only condition. Then I will be empowered to do what you cannot do--to bring on the miracles and deliver showers of blessings in your life, your situation, and that of others.

2. There is magic in praise. Even if you don't feel like praising, even if the Devil is screaming the word "hypocrite" in your ear, praise anyway. It is not hypocrisy to use a magic formula to deliver yourself from the dungeon of despair. Satan's got you in a paper jail that will

disintegrate at the first drop of the magic potion of praise. He knows this lockup is a sham, so he is only trying to bluff you out of securing your freedom. Call his bluff. Praise his prison to pieces.

3. You don't think you can praise Me for **this** tough situation? This is just a little too much to ask of you? You need to stop seeing the situation through your own limited vision. Put on My glasses of faith and let the praises loose! The tide will turn and the victory will clearly materialize through the haze of uncertainty.

4. It's not a lie to say words of praise and gratitude even if you don't feel that way. You're letting your spirit helper of praise and thankfulness speak through you and express what your carnal mind isn't able to at that moment. It always pays to praise and thank Me. So don't let the Enemy make you feel that there are times when it wouldn't be right or it wouldn't be true, because that's a lie!

(True story:)

Many years back we were having trouble with immigrations. They had taken all our passports and were holding them. Then the day came when they told us to come down to immigrations for a meeting, about a week later. We didn't know what was going to happen, and were having a very serious and desperate prayer meeting early in the morning. Then the Lord gave us the verse in 2 Chronicles 20, about how the Lord told Jehosaphat to go into battle praising Him, putting the singers and the priests at the head of the army, and that if he did that, then the Lord would give the victory. So we took that as from the Lord, and did just that. We got in the car and played the guitar and sang and praised the Lord all the way to the immigrations building, and lo and behold, when we arrived, they just handed us our passports without even a mark in them! It was such an awe-inspiring incident, and has stayed with us all these years.

Keys of Praise

Humble yourself by employing the keys of praise, and you will be a powerful and effective spiritual warrior to defeat the Enemy.

Awesome power from the heavenly realm will be given to the children of David who wear the garment of thankfulness and activate the keys of praise.

Be a zealous, crazy crusader with the keys of praise, and the Enemy will be incapacitated with each thrust of your praise power.

The keys of praise are not smothered or defeated by any earthly circumstances. They know no defeat, and will win every battle you call them to fight.

Praise even if you can't see the miracle you're requesting, and the power of the keys will blow the dark clouds away and bring out the sunshine again.

Keep the keys of praise on your lips at all times, and you will be invincible.

No demon of Hell can withstand the strength and power of the keys of praise.

Your prayer power is magnified a thousand times over when you include the keys of praise.

Discouragement's perpetrators will have an instant meltdown when you call on the keys of praise.

When you don't feel like praising, take hold of the power of the keys and you'll be free to praise and overcome.

Flaunt your praise keys in the Enemy's face, and he will be overpowered.

The praise keys are a vehicle of happiness that will drive you to victory.

The keys of praise will give you a quicker positive change of direction than a roller coaster with a force of 10 *g*.

When you come up against an obstacle, detonate the keys of praise to blast your way through!

Use the weapon of the keys of praise to paint your target for Heaven's bombers.

Make your praise keys your most used keys, because they are your all-around undefeatable weapon.

* * * *

If you're praising in a difficult situation, you could label your praise "extreme praise," not because the **praise** is any different, but because your **circumstances** are more difficult. ... it takes greater or more extreme faith to wield our weapon of praise in very difficult situations.

The weapon of praise is for **all** situations and **all** circumstances, and it is effective and powerful and on target for all situations. Sometimes it might be in extreme circumstances and sometimes pleasant circumstances, but either way praise is a sign of your faith, and is powerful!

* * * *

(True story:) When we sincerely accept and thank God for a situation, believing that He has brought it about, there is released into that situation a supernatural, divine force that brings about changes beyond what can be explained as an unfolding of natural events.

While I was serving as a chaplain at Fort Benning, Georgia, a young soldier brought his wife to my office for help. She was suffering with horrible flashbacks from LSD, and the doctors had been unable to prescribe a cure. Fear and pain had etched deep lines into her pretty face.

"I can't sleep," she said. "I can't even close my eyes for a minute without seeing horrible animals rushing at me."

Her husband explained that whenever his wife fell asleep from sheer exhaustion, she would begin to scream almost immediately.

"I try to shake her awake, but sometimes it takes as long as ten minutes to bring her back to consciousness, and all that time she screams with an anguish that is driving me to despair as well," he said.

I listened to their tragic story and said, "I have only one suggestion. Please kneel with me, and let us thank God that you are like you are."

They both stared at me. Carefully I explained how I had learned that God wants us to be thankful for all things.

"Everything that has happened in your life so far has served to bring you to this very point," I said. "I believe God loves you and is going to do something very wonderful for you. Now He wants you to thank Him for everything that has brought you to Him."

I leafed through my Bible and showed them the scriptures I had underlined.

They both accepted what they heard and knelt to thank God for everything in their lives, particularly for the flashbacks from drugs. I could feel the presence of God in the room.

"The Holy Spirit is making it clear that He is healing you right now," I said. I placed my hand on the girl's head and prayed, "Thank You, Lord, for healing this girl right now."

She opened her eyes and looked amazed.

"Something has happened to me. When I closed my eyes to pray, I didn't see anything!"

"Jesus has healed you," I said. "Now He wants to come into your life as your Savior. Will you accept Him?"

Both the girl and her husband eagerly said, "Yes!"

Still on their knees, they asked Jesus to come into their lives. Then they walked out of my office rejoicing.

The girl's healing was permanent. Never again did the flashbacks return. The power of the drug over her mind had been broken by the power of God.

This kind of change cannot be brought about by a new attitude or a determined effort of self-will. This is God's power at work in human lives.

Any form of sincere prayer opens the door for God's power to move into our lives. But the prayer of praise releases more of God's power than any other form of petition.

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5. Think it not strange that you are being tested beyond what you thought you could take, but rejoice, praise, and be jubilant! This is the very opportunity that I need in order to catapult you into the heavenlies so that you can see things from up here, from **My** perspective.

6. If you think it was spectacular when praise brought down the walls of Jericho, why not try **your** shouts of praise and songs of jubilation on the Enemy as you march forward into his territory! Watch his fear factories and lie-delivery services being put right out of business! Bankrupt him by giving no place to his thoughts. Instead, fill your mind, heart, and mouth with songs of deliverance and let your voice reach into the heavens with melodies of joy!

7. Be strong in battle, defeating the Enemy. Kick him where it hurts by refusing to doubt, refusing to get down, refusing to be discouraged, refusing to accept that bummer that he's handing you. Use your weapon of praise to drown him out. Pull out those praises, lift them high, and keep them pointed upward until you see the Enemy running in anguish from your unrelenting praise.

8. Why wait to see if things improve before you begin to thank Me? Turn on those praises at the first hint of the Enemy's presence, and you'll turn him around so fast that he won't know what hit him.

Get him before he gets you! Don't give him even a fraction of your spiritual victory! Shout out your praises and joy and victory!

9. Turn on the fire hose of praise and blast the Enemy out of sight! Put out his fires of annoyances! Flood him and his imps with such a rush of praise that they will drown in it!

10. The Enemy has absolutely no power over you unless you **give** him that power. So take up your weapon of praise in difficult situations and rob him of any effect that he wants to have on you. He'll have no way to get through to you as you lift the shield of praise and make it so strong through your heartfelt praises that any of his shots at you will simply ricochet back at him.

11. It's a showdown--you against the Enemy of your faith. Your quick draw on the weapon of praise just shot the Enemy right out of the zone! You got him straight through the heart with the firepower of praise! He's a goner, and you're off to celebrate!

12. Reactive or proactive, it's your choice. Why wait to thank Me until you see the good that comes from a situation? Instead, you can start celebrating right from the start! Proactive praising makes life a lot more fun. Try it! You'll love it!

13. When you see that sword of praise lying there at your feet, it looks huge, heavy, and daunting. The spirit of lethargy and the spirit of pride are working hard, working overtime to convince you that it's too difficult, too humiliating, and that you can't afford to pick it up; it's too hard, too heavy. But the magical thing is that as soon as you pick it up, it becomes as light as a feather! You instantly become a professional, swinging it like a practiced, skilled swordsman. That's because the skill to wield this sword accurately and with the power of the spirit has been embedded in the depths of your soul from your creation. You were created and born to be a skilled warrior of praise. It's in your spiritual nature, because praise is **My** nature, and **you're** a part of **Me**. Maybe it's latent, maybe it hasn't come forth fully yet, but each of you, the children of David, were born and bred to be swordsmen of praise.

So pick up your weapon! Watch it sparkle in your hands. See the blade glisten as you twist it about, throw it up in the air, catch it with

skill, and thrust it with might! For you are the honorable warriors not only of David, not only of Maria and of Peter, but of the Lamb Himself, Me, your Husband. You are My mighty brides who have kept your lamps burning, and now it's time to arise and shine brightly, for the glory of the praises of My Spirit have come upon you. It's your day to shine! The day that many have seen from ages past is in your time. Seize the day with the weapon of praise and never let it go! The day is yours! I have given the victory into your hands through praise.

(True story:) A Christian officer candidate at Fort Benning received word that his wife had been committed to a mental hospital after a severe breakdown. The doctors gave a poor prognosis for her recovery and said that she would have to be in the hospital for an indefinite time.

When John came into my office, he could not speak at first. I watched his tall frame shake with sobs and tears coursed down his grief-lined face.

"Why, oh, why did it happen?" He fought to utter the words. "My wife and I have tried to live good Christian lives; why has God deserted us now?"

"God hasn't deserted you," I said. "He has a real purpose in letting your wife go to the hospital. Why don't we kneel and thank Him for it?"

John stared at me. "Sir, I'm a Lutheran, and I've never read anything like that in my Bible!"

"What about this verse?" I suggested. "Always give thanks for everything to our God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph.5:20).

John shook his head. "I know that verse," he said. "I've always thought it meant to thank God for good things. Thanking Him for bad things just doesn't seem scriptural. I always thought Paul was a little extreme when he wrote about taking pleasure in infirmities."

"I used to think so, too," I said. "But I've become convinced that Paul is right. When he speaks about rejoicing in infirmities, he

obviously doesn't mean we are supposed to find pain pleasurable in itself. But Paul had come to see his suffering from a different perspective. He had learned that his pain served a higher purpose and was part of God's loving plan for him."

John looked thoughtful. "I just don't know," he said slowly.

"Paul learned his lesson the hard way, too," I went on. "Remember his 'thorn in the flesh'?"

John nodded.

"Three times Paul asked to have it removed. He was obviously not rejoicing in his pain right then. And three times God answered him, 'No. But I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people.' Now I am glad to boast about how weak I am; I am glad to be a living demonstration of Christ's power, instead of showing off my own power and abilities" (2Cor.12:9).

"Paul wasn't happy about his infirmities for their own sake," I continued. "He went on to tell the Corinthians, 'Since I know it is all *for Christ's good*, I am quite happy about "the thorn," and about insults and hardships, persecutions and difficulties; for when I am weak, then I am strong--the less I have, the more I depend on him"' (2Cor.12:10).

John leafed thoughtfully through his Bible.

"I have faith that God is working in all things," he said at last. "But the rejoicing part is really hard for me."

"If we say we have faith but can't rejoice, doesn't that mean we haven't really committed ourselves to trusting that God is doing what is best?" I suggested.

John sat in silence, then he nodded with determination.

"I believe you're right," he said. "I want to try it."

We knelt together, and John's tall frame shook with sobs as he prayed, "Lord, I know You love my wife more than I do. I believe You're working out a wonderful plan for us."

The tears were flowing freely down his face, but his eyes shone with a new confidence.

"God is doing the right thing, Chaplain," he said. "I know it."

A few days later John applied for compassionate transfer so that he could be near his wife. The request was eventually granted, and he came to say good-bye.

"Wait till you hear the best part," he said excitedly. "God has promised to heal my wife the moment I see her if I place my hands on her head and say, 'In Jesus' name be healed.'"

I felt a twinge of doubt. What if John in his eagerness was jumping ahead of God? Then I, too, felt the assurance of the Holy Spirit, and placed my hand on John in a parting prayer.

"Father, you say that if two agree on earth concerning anything we ask for, You will do it for us [Mat.18:19]. So now I agree with John that the moment he touches his wife, You will heal her."

Two weeks later John's letter came.

"It happened just like Jesus told us it would. My wife was standing in the psychiatrist's office when I first saw her. She looked terrible. The lines in her face and the fear in her eyes almost convinced me she was beyond help. But I knew I had to obey what God had told me, and so I walked over and put my hands on her.

The moment I touched her, something like a shock went through her, and I knew she was healed. I told the psychiatrist that she was healed, and he looked at me as if he thought I needed to be admitted. But they called me the next day, and the psychiatrist said, "I don't know how to account for it, but your wife seems to be well!"

My wife is home now, happier than she's ever been before. She has been strengthened by the afflictions she suffered, and she now joins me in being thankful for all things. We've learned how much of Jesus' healing power is released when we praise Him."

* * * *

14. It is to **you**, My loves, whom I have revealed this weapon of utmost importance in these Last Days. It was known before and was used to some degree in the past, but it has only been fully revealed and unveiled now. The skill of praise has been embedded in your hearts, and you are the warriors of the End, with the powerful praises from your heart, your mouth, your lips, reaching the hearts and minds of those who see and hear you. You are the carriers of My magical weapon! Yes, it's **you**! The **weapon** is praise, but **you** are the **wielders** of the weapon. In a sense, you **are** the weapon of praise, when you open your lips and your spirit comes before Me in utter praise to Me and My goodness and for all that I do for all of creation.

15. I dwell in the praises of My people, and therefore, as praise comes out of your lips, My Spirit gently settles down upon you, My vessels. When I settle somewhere, all evil vanishes, for no evil can remain in My sight. It flees from My presence as quickly as it can, lest it be evaporated in a microsecond of exposure. Therefore, praise, praise, praise, especially in the darkness, in bad situations; for the quicker you praise and the more you praise, the sooner the victory will come and the larger the victory will be. It's a fact of the spirit, a principle of the spirit.

16. Attitude is what determines the fullness or sweetness of your existence and your testimony. It's what you are. Attitude is an arrow in the spirit world, and an attitude shot with praise and gratitude is directed straight toward the bull's-eye of My presence. So when you decide to take on an attitude about anything, be sure to use the bow of gratitude so that this attitude can fly with the power of praise. You'll surely hit the mark of My will and not fall short.

17. My desire is to see each one of you connect with Me through the power and gusto of your praises. I am the center of your existence, and you connect with Me through your praiseful, thankful attitude. Praise is the **road** to Me.

18. The parable of the prodigal son was written about any who have strayed from My side. When I see you walking up the road of praise with a thankful heart, I immediately come running to meet you.

I wrap My arms around you and throw My cloak about you, and call My servants to prepare a feast. For My daughter, My son, those who were lost, have found their way back into My arms.

19. Sometimes your sword of praise gets knocked out of your hands. That's okay. Every warrior has battles, and every battle has its ups and downs; otherwise, it wouldn't be a fight. But the thing that thrills My soul to its depths is when I see My humble warrior look the Enemy in the eyes, pick up his sword of praise and thrust it into the guts of the Enemy, even if it's with his last ounce of strength.

20. When you, My warriors, use your last reserve of strength in order to deal a deadly blow of praise to anything negative, I Myself come to the tip of the blade of your sword to ensure that it hits the heart of the Enemy where it will do the most possible damage. I am not playing games. I am not sparring. I am engaged in deadly warfare, because My lost children all over the world are calling out to Me for help. As you use your blade of praise against anything dark or bad or negative, I guarantee defeat to the Enemy, victory in the battle, and deliverance from all harm to you who are willing to give unto your last breath.

* * * *

(True story:) One night as I climbed off my bunk bed, but missed my projected footing completely and came crashing down with my full weight on the corner of the desk on my rump. Oh, it was so painful I couldn't speak for a few minutes! My roommate was so concerned and asked if I was okay.

Finally, when I caught my breath, by God's grace I remembered to praise and thank the Lord for the accident. Although I was in extreme pain, as I praised it seemed to open a passage or instant connection for the Lord's power to flow through to me. I didn't feel it physically, but I knew it happened. Due to the pain, I couldn't walk upstairs to the bathroom, so my roommate helped me up the stairs. When I came out of the bathroom, I started to shiver and shake with my teeth chattering, even though it was a hot summer night!

Another sister, along with my roommate, lifted me up another set of stairs to the living room where there were very soft, comfortable couches. They brought me a blanket and hot drinks until I warmed up. Then we prayed together to see if I should get checked at the hospital, since I was in so much pain. I thought that maybe I had fractured my hip, but the Lord said to wait until morning, so all that was left to do was try to find a comfortable way to lie down and then try to get some rest. Thank the Lord I was able to lie down comfortably, so after seeing that I was well, the girls left to their rooms. I couldn't really sleep as my body was quite freaked out, so I just started thanking the Lord that it wasn't worse, and that I was able to get in a comfortable position, etc.

I was facing the outside windows to the front of our house and the design on the wood began to take on the appearance of several hearts. I suddenly felt a rush of the Lord's love and mercy; it was so warm and I felt so close to Him. Without really thinking I started to sing some praise songs. I closed my eyes to rest and began to see a vision of someone lying on a table, which was situated on a stage, with spotlights and an audience around. The person on the table didn't look mournful, but happy with eager anticipation with what was to happen next.

I was pondering what this vision meant, and when I opened my eyes I was startled to see another sister leaning over me to see if I was alright. I asked if she could help me to get up and go to the bathroom. As she pulled me up, I realized that strangely I didn't feel any pain. I was amazed. So I tried walking by myself, and still no pain. I tried walking up and down the stairs next and sure enough, I was fine! Then it dawned on me that that vision was of me. *I* was the one on the table-about to be healed! How wonderful!

I'd never personally experienced such a dramatic healing, so it was marvelous to me. For the next few weeks I had a tender derriere, with a hand-sized purple bruise, but other than that, I was healthy. Looking back, I can only marvel at the power of praise-it really does mysteriously link us to the power of Heaven. I know I'm just beginning to discover the power of praise, but I wanted to share these happenings. Praise power is real and available anytime!

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21. When what comes out of you in any situation is praise, I, the Spirit of Life, will penetrate your spirit and will breathe into you the electric power of My Spirit of Life that will renew your strength. You will mount up on wings like an eagle, the wings of My Spirit, of My life. You will run and not be weary; you will walk and not faint. Praise is energy in the spirit, and this energy is transfused into you when you praise. The blessings of My Spirit are a natural byproduct of praising Me.

22. I am the Spirit of Life, and thankfulness and gratitude are the means to go deeper into Me. They chase away all fear; they bring remorse to a dead end; they leap over the gorge of worry and they land in the field of peace and calm, where I dwell. They give you smooth sailing, powered by the breath of My Spirit.

23. Your spirit is a vehicle, and what it carries determines your direction as well as your destination. If you carry thankfulness and gratitude in your passenger seats, and if you power your vehicle with the more-than-nuclear energy of praise, you will eventually reach the heights of Heaven, where I dwell. That's the right direction, and the right destination, and more than enough power to get you there. So get on the road to success. Get the right passengers on board. Turn the key of praise, and power up! Be a winner. Keep thankfulness and a positive attitude in your vehicle and power up with praise, and no other thought will be able to road-block you, lest it be smashed to smithereens!

24. You can praise in the spirit together and your spirits will actually merge into one united spirit with Me. Try it! If any two or three or more of you let go of yourselves and grab on to Me, and labor together until you're pumping unitedly in the flow of My Spirit, you can experience that magical moment when you merge in Me and become one with Me and with those who are loving Me. Try it! You'll love it!

(True story:) 18-SEP-2018 --Heart Healing—Jesus is the Healer and has the balm for every hurt; His Words heal and praise protects:

The other day when having personal reading and talk time and prayer time with my eldest son he was reminded of something that was paining him. Some thing had happened nine months ago that was still bothering him. He said every time he thinks about it it's like thorn that pokes him again and again. He'd missed seeing something he really would have liked to see. It wasn't something we could do to make happen for him; it was by chance that he missed it, due to activity choices he made—to do this and then that. Never in his life could there be a repeat of it in this way. He cried lots about it.

Knowing recently personally how the Lord can heal anything in our heart and has the balm of healing for it all—each different hurt has a different thing that helps to heal, but healing can come for anything—I told him I knew the Lord had just the right thing to heal him. So I prayed for the Lord to show us what the balm would be this time—maybe it would come now, or later on down the line. We took time to pray and hear from the Lord about it.

The Lord told him a very interesting and eye-opening message, revealing things behind the scenes. The message said that that was the only thing the enemy was permitted to do to trouble this boy during our trip. That the list of things was long and debilitating and death-causing of all the enemy wished to do and tried to do, but the Lord would not allow it. He Lord said that from now on whenever the enemy reminded him of this thing he missed seeing, to laugh and mock the enemy at how weak he was and that was the only puny thing he was able to do. And to instead praise the Lord for all the good and miracles that happened to keep us happy and alive and well. (Indeed that trip this boy nearly got bitten by one of the most deadly snakes in the world, but was spared wonderfully.)

So as I was reading this message from Jesus that told of all the protection on our trip and all the bad things that didn't happen—and exposing this one thread of a thing that the enemy was allowed to do and was gleeful because it was something he could use to keep poking and hurting the boy with—then a miracle of the heart took place.

I wasn't even through reading aloud the message that I'd typed up, to the crying boy, when he suddenly exclaimed: "I can't explain it! It's gone! The thorn is gone!" The pain of heart had been removed instantly at hearing the words of Jesus, that were on target, to heal and cleanse that pain and wound that had been inflicted. That was it! After months of never getting over it, bing, Jesus heals with His words and thoughts and prospective on the situation—when heard by a receptive and believing heart.

Here is the praise fighting prayer the Lord gave that the boy could say when or if the pain came again—but it never will, because Jesus removed it. But it's good for any future attacks, to say to the enemy:

"You silly creep! Ha! That was all you could do. I praise Jesus for how powerful He is. He made none of the evil plans work out. Jesus, I thank You for the gift of life that I still have. I thank You for the family that I still have. I thank You for the hearing that I still have. I thank you for the gift of movement and use of my fingers that I still have. I thank you for the trips we can now still go on. Please forgive me for forgetting the big, huge gifts and protection and care that You have given, and for listening to the enemy who is trying to hit me and hurt me again and again. I now give him no place. Step on him Jesus, squish his pitiful voice so I no longer hear it. Remove his tools of pain that he uses to poke me with and use them back on him a thousand times for every one he has given to me. I love you forever and I know Jesus that you only allow what is going to be turned together for good and what will make Your plans work out best and in the fastest way. The enemy can't do anything to stop You, Jesus; because everything he tries, the things you allow, are only what will get us a short-cut to victory. Even though I don't see clearly how this even will work together for good, now with my carnal mind, I pray that with the eyes of the spirit you will show me and teach me and turn it to gold. Teach me whatever You know I need to learn. I praise you for all that comes, good or bad, right or wrong. I trust You and am on Your winning team. I rebuke any attempts of the enemy to hinder, and while fighting against him I am gaining strength of spirit and proving to You that I really am solidly on your side. It's like a test and when You see that I am willing to fight the evil one, then You know that I love You, Jesus. And those that love You, You will cherish

and do extra special things for. I need You always. I need to hear Your voice. I need You to talk to me, to walk with me, and to take me safely and happily through this challenging life. (End of praise prayer)

25. The pessimist and the optimist see the same thing, but in two very different ways. For the pessimist, it is bad and difficult; yet for the optimist, it is beautiful and good. Praising Me in difficult situations allows you to see things as an optimist, which will totally change your perspective and surroundings for the better.

26. When you choose the extreme praise route, the negative in your life becomes that much more thrilling and exciting. You are no longer bound by the rules and limitations of life, for you are pushing the edge of the envelope by taking that leap and trusting that I will catch you. So you're free to enjoy life to the full, regardless of the current state of your surroundings.

27. When you are pulled and stretched to the limit, the bounce back is that much further and better. Praise will release you and send you soaring higher than ever before.

28. The weapon of praise is like a grappling hook; it gives you the ability to climb up and out of the pit that the Enemy is trying to keep you in.

29. Extreme praise is a beacon attracting breakthroughs in the spirit, victories, healings, miracles, solutions, and all the blessings that the power of Heaven is ready to send. Turn on the beacon and expect results!

30. Extreme praise demands results, and, as you use it, you **will** see miracles and your faith will be strengthened. As your faith is strengthened, the miracles will increase.

31. Praising Me regardless of your surroundings, and thanking Me specifically for a bad situation, shows Me that you are resting fully on Me and My strength.--Which means that I'm then able to perform miracles and change your situation for the good according to My perfect will and plan.

(True story:) Saul of Tarsus became Paul the apostle after a remarkable conversion experience on the road to Damascus. He experienced his share of what looked like mishaps in spreading the gospel.

Once when Paul and Silas came to Philippi, they were accused of corrupting the city and were stripped and beaten until the blood ran from their bare backs. Then they were put in the inner dungeon of the prison with their feet clamped in stocks. (Acts 16:20–24).

But Paul and Silas didn't think that God had deserted them. They were convinced that God had called them to preach in Philippi, and that He was working in everything to bring about His perfect plan for them. So they didn't whine or complain. They sat there in the dungeon with the blood stiffened on their sore backs and they were praying and singing songs of praise to God.

Suddenly, at midnight, there was a great earthquake, the prison doors flew open, and the chains fell off every prisoner. The jailer was horrified, thinking they had all escaped. But Paul yelled out, assuring him that all the prisoners were there, and the jailer came and threw himself down before their feet. "What must I do to be saved?" he begged.

Beginning with the jailer and his entire family, the people of Philippi received the Gospel (Acts 16).

God had a perfect plan for the city of Philippi. He sent Paul and Silas to be His witnesses there, and they had faith to believe that God was working out His plan, even if He used circumstances they could not have anticipated.

Paul suffered many afflictions. He was stoned and left for dead, shipwrecked, bitten by a snake, suffered disease and persecution ... but never did he think that God had stopped directing every incident of his life. He counted it all for joy and an opportunity to praise God. Paul knew that his suffering was working *for* him.

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32. When everything around you seems to be in chaos and it looks like an impossible situation, grab the weapon of extreme praise and allow it to transport you into My realm where there is peace and where anything is possible.

33. Extreme praise is like a sleeping pill. It lets you lie back in My arms and go to sleep, regardless of where you are, or how difficult your situation, or how negative your surroundings, trusting that I will take care of My Own.

34. Your whole being is surrounded by a protective force when you use your weapon of praise. Anything the Enemy tries to throw at you will have no effect when you are in the protective bubble of praise. Even if madness and difficulty are all around you, you can keep a smile on your face--because within this bubble, everything is beautiful!

35. You may have walked right into a trap of the Enemy and taken a beating. The Enemy may seem to be the victor and you're about ready to give up, thinking you've done all that you can. But before you do, pull out the weapon of extreme praise and watch the Enemy go running! He knows that praise equals defeat for him.

36. I've said that if you will ask anything in My Name, I will do it. When you thank Me and praise Me ahead of time for having **done** it, that moves Me to work even more quickly and more powerfully on your behalf!

37. Praise turns the darkness into day, transforms your sunset into a sunrise, turns dark clouds inside out to reveal their silver linings, and makes winter look and feel like summer. Use the weapon of praise to change your spirit and your surroundings.

* * * *

(True story from my diary:) 9-JUL-2020

I had the time and the need to reset up the biggest room in our house; completely change the furniture around and get it done for the most part by a certain time. But I felt so unempowered and uninspired to do it. Why? Because the last times I have done it, trying to tick nearly impossible boxes of various wishes and aesthetic tastes, all I got was complaint, even though I had stretched beyond my limits while pressured to do it. It was hurtful and seemed to happen repeatedly each time. So taking all this precious time and praying for the supernatural strength to do it alone, and getting heaven sent solutions was going to get me pain. That's all. I didn't have the courage or bravery to face it again. But I needed to so I delayed and finally just started to go through the "walk up mount golgatha" motions. Each step leading me to the expected lack of gratitude and "praise" for all the good things about the new set up.

I didn't make it on time because I delayed. It worked okay, but I was out of the victory thinking about the resent past pains and the hurtful lack of appreciation.

Then I realised that this taught me very good principle in the spirit that I've always wished to understand.

How does it empower or not empower the Lord to do things for us when we praise Him or don't praise Him?

Does He want to have to hear our complaints yet again? Does He want to endure the hurt of our lack of gratitude for the many good things, while we just focus and whine and fuss about some blemish that needs to be there for whatever reason? Maybe He just wishes to spare Himself the pain and delays the answer to a wish. But if He knows that for His and His Heavenly Host's effort He's going to get showered with praise and gratitude and thankfulness, He might just want to jump in and do it heartily.

In the past I used to get inspired to do this or that arrangement for the house and all the things I try to do to make things better over all—trying to take everyone's suggestions and pray down a solution.

But these days with so much criticism and each one wanting things

that just are beyond the limitations of the way things are supposed to be, I don't know if I have the courage to pick up my bleeding and weary heart to try yet again.

But I must. As the children don't have the strength and experience and knowledge of all the factors involved to make things truly better, with as little negative side effects as possible. It's up to me. There is no one else, for the most part.

Lord, with my sad and broken heart I'm sorry. I have been the child who has complained about the things you have set up for us. I have hurt your feelings and that of your helpers more times than I can count. Thank you for letting me feel a tiny tiny percent of what You've gone through, so I will see how important it is to You, and how much you really do appreciate our words of gratitude and praise.

Thank you for letting me learn this sad lesson to day.

And please, help me to have your strength and genuine love to try again to do what my family needs at this time—the ever changing needs.

Thank You for all you have done to make things great for me.

Nothing has been easy, but that is because it was never meant to be. Surprise, surprise!

But I was to practice praising and seeing your Love in all circumstances.

*Thought:

I guess that is the difference between what the people said and what Caleb and Joshua said:

One team said—things aren't right; God has cheated us.

The other team said—things aren't right; God can help us overcome, no matter how hard it might be.

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38. Praise is one of the lubricants of Heaven. If you've got the friction of problems, or the overheating of stress, or the dryness that causes your spiritual joints to squeak, or you feel like you're becoming unhinged, apply a liberal dose of praise. If you pour on the praise, I'll do My part to take care of the problem.

39. Thank Me for that headache you're suffering, or that ache or pain in your body, trusting in My promise that all things work together for good, because **you** love **Me** and **I** love **you**. Praise has more power than pain and pounding! Praise soothes and overcomes afflictions.

40. Can't sleep? Don't count sheep. Praise is the victory.

Can't think straight? Don't hesitate. Praise is the victory.

Can't work it out? Don't pout. Praise is the victory.

Can't do it? Don't rue it. Praise is the victory.

Praise is **always** the victory, in good times and bad.

So don't be sad. Praise **is** the victory.

41. Your praises to Me in the midst of hardship, battles, trials, and afflictions are like the fragrance of a rose petal when it's crushed in order to make perfume. It's a heavenly scent and fragrance that clings to you, My beautiful bride, and attracts Me to your side, eager to solve your problem. So put on the perfume of praise if you feel like you're being crushed or bruised; that just makes you more beautiful and causes Me to draw closer to you.

42. Praising Me, even through your tears and heartaches, is like a farmer watering a dry and dusty field that's been barren, and then watching the crops start to spring up. So praise, and watch new life grow from barren earth.

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(True story:) Charles accepted Jesus less than a year ago. He was a radiant witness for the Lord. After six months he developed cancer. He had two operations, but the growth in his lungs returned. He called the elders of his church; they anointed him and prayed for his healing. When he went back for his checkup, the growth had disappeared. Charles rejoiced and praised the Lord. Then a few months later he had severe headaches. He went into the hospital for a checkup and was dead in two days. Brain cancer.

"A pastor friend of the family flew in to preach at the funeral. On the plane he sat down next to a youth. They began to talk; the pastor shared Charles's story and the young boy gave his life to Jesus before the plane landed. In new Orleans the pastor changed flights. On the next leg of his journey he sat next to a young woman. She, too, inquired where he was going, and he told her the story about Charles. Before the plane landed, she had accepted Jesus. The funeral was an occasion to praise the Lord for all He had done in Charles's life. After the funeral, two men accepted Christ on the sidewalk outside the chapel. Charles's body was flown to his home town for burial. During the ceremony, I couldn't take my eyes off the face of the young widow. She was radiant with an inner peace and joy. During the past year she and Charles had come to know the joy in praising God for all things. She told me, 'Death is swallowed up in victory' (1Cor.15:54). I have no reason to weep. Praise God!"

* * * *

(Jesus speaking:)

1. In everything give praise, for this is My will concerning you. As you give thanks in everything, I give everything to you. As you rejoice even in the midst of pain or problems, that joy becomes your strength, your help, your comfort and your solution--all through the power of praise.

2. When you praise, you are receiving the sap of My Spirit into the roots of your being. Then the Enemy can't undermine your spiritual

strength. He attacks, hoping to cut you off from Me, but your spiritual strength is protected through praise.

3. When an army marches forward in the midst of battle, ignoring the bombardment from the Enemy, two things bring victory: Number one, the fact that the army doesn't give up and keeps attacking, and number two, the show of fearlessness, which strikes fear into the opposing force.

When you march forth with praise, the Enemy and his demons are struck with fear. They may keep bombarding you with difficulties, but as you continue to march forth with praise, this very action will produce fear in the heart of Satan and his most powerful imps, and they will all eventually turn tail and run, leaving you with ground gained and the victory won.

4. Praising when you are under attack is similar to a monkey climbing the tallest tree when chased by a predator. It puts you fully out of the reach of the Enemy. He may sit at the base and roar; he may even climb partway up the tree. But praise takes you from branch to branch, higher and higher, until your enemy is forced to forgo his pursuit.

5. Praise generates the scent of victory, while fear masks it. The Enemy seeks the scent of fear from you, much like a predator seeks the scent of fear of his prey. Even if you still tremble while you praise, you will be surrounded by the scent of victory; the fear will be masked, throwing the Enemy off your trail.

* * * *

25 Aug 2018--(Vision:) I had a vision of my special bed in heaven, and the posts on it were covered in gold and jewels embedded in it. I got the thought that every time I praised the Lord, another jewel was added. The room was being beautified by what I do here. I'd never seen it before like this—gorgeous gold and jewelled. I imagined I'd feel more comfortable having Jesus over for visits, the King of kings, with a more royal looking room and furnishings. So it makes me want to spend plenty of praise time and time with Him.

* * * *

6. Praise is the oxygen in the oxygen tank that gives you the capacity to climb the highest peaks. You'll never run out of fresh, pure, strengthening oxygen if you tank up with praise, no matter how difficult or how high the climb.

7. To protect your valuables from a potential robber, you devise a hiding place in your home where the robber isn't likely to look.

Praise hides your valuables from the Enemy. Whether your life, your loved ones, your spiritual walk, your work for Me, your physical or spiritual assets, all of those can be hidden through praise. Even if the Enemy sees where some of your assets are hidden when your guard is down, you can quickly protect them by raising the spiritual barrier of praise.

8. When you wear praise as your outer garments, it makes you attractive to those who see you. And when you also wear praise as your under garments, this makes sure that your outer garments suit you well and fit you perfectly. Praise is comely.

9. The beauty that I've put within you is released through praise. If you wish for others to see My beautiful gift of salvation and love that I've put within your heart, you must release it through praise.

When the Enemy hits you with problems and you praise Me for the attack, you are releasing the beautiful gifts of My Spirit for all to see. By doing so, you turn the Enemy's attacks into marvelous opportunities for others to see My beauty within you and to draw more people to Me.

* * * *

(True story:)For years I had proudly told myself that I rarely grumbled; that is, I rarely grumbled out loud. I had cultivated and maintained a smiling façade, but I was a habitual grumbler inside. Of course, as long as I didn't think I was guilty of grumbling, I never improved.

I thought *my* kinds of complaints were legitimate. I grumbled when I didn't get enough sleep and had to get out of bed in the morning without feeling rested.

I grumbled under my breath if the bathroom was messed up by another member of my family, and I grumbled over my hurried breakfast. I grumbled when things went wrong at the office, and when people didn't do what I expected of them. I grumbled over bills, and when my car wouldn't start, or when I hit a red light on my way to anywhere. I grumbled when I had to work late at the office and didn't get to be on time; and the next morning I started all over again.

When finally the Holy Spirit began to show me what the Bible had to say about thanking God in everything, I began to realize that I'd been doing the opposite for years and never thought a thing about it.

The first step toward rehabilitation was to admit to myself that I was a habitual grumbler.

I believe that the most effective way to deal with our sins is to be specific about them. We admit them, confess them, ask God's forgiveness, and make a clear-cut decision not to fall into that sin again. We then ask God to remove the sin from us and to give us increased faith and strength to withstand temptation. At last we thank Him for it and proceed on faith, knowing that it has been done.

One of the things I'd grumbled about for years was my lack of musical talent. Whenever I heard beautiful music, I failed to enjoy it fully, because it always made me wish I could play an instrument or sing beautiful solos.

Then one day I was listening to a concert, and the question came into my mind, "Are you thankful that you can't play a musical instrument?"

I recognized the source of the question as the Holy Spirit and squirmed in my seat.

"No, Lord, I guess I'm not."

"Are you willing to be?"

"Yes, Lord, I'm willing. You could have arranged to give me a musical talent and have it trained if you wanted to, so I thank You for how I am, just as You wanted me to be."

As I said it, a great peace flowed into me, and I realized that I was actually happy to be as I am.

"What I wanted you to learn is this," the Holy Spirit said: "If you could make beautiful music, you would please some people, but when you give praise, you always please God."

My lack of musical talent was never a shortcoming in God's eyes, only in my own. I was the one who was dissatisfied with the way God had made me. He was never dissatisfied.

10. Praise is like the toughest varnish a carpenter puts on the wood. It protects the wood from scratches, spills, and termites. Using praise is the way to glaze your spirit so that no matter what the Enemy throws at you, you can't be marred.

11. If you want to be an extreme disciple, go to the extreme in your praises to Me! There's no limit to what I can do for you with the power that this kind of praise frees Me to perform--outright, downright miracles!

12. When you find yourself in an extremely difficult circumstance, that's the perfect time to use extreme praise to deliver you from that situation. I can't resist such positive, full-of-faith responses to the tests I allow you to face, and those praises change situations through their influence on Me.

13. When you hear your own voice lifted in praise, thanking Me for some less-than-ideal event that is taking place in your life, it gives you more faith than when you **started** praising Me; it builds more faith in you as you thank Me for the challenge it affords you. That very atmosphere of praise creates more faith and uplifts you and those around you.

14. Practicing praise in challenging situations is catching! When others see and hear your positive reactions to some situation which seems negative, it lifts them up too, and creates a domino effect of influencing others to see the good in a bad situation.

15. The Enemy is always on the prowl, just waiting for his chance to strike you a blow of discouragement and negativity at the first sign of a seemingly troublesome situation. But if you strike first by preempting his blow with positive, faith-building praises to Me, the Enemy will be foiled again!

* * * *

I saw an angel once. And it happened when I least expected it. I had two small children and was very pregnant with my third. We were living in Italy and had gone witnessing for the day in a little town. Everyone had had a good time and it was time to go home.

We discovered, though, that we had missed the last train out of the little town to get back home. There would be no more trains until the next morning. Oh, no! We didn't have much money, definitely not enough to pay for a meal and to stay in a hotel.

Being pregnant, I was feeling very tired. I was also feeling a little grumpy at the way things had turned out. So there we were, a mommy and daddy with two small kids in a strange city. We didn't know what to do but we knew it would soon be nightfall.

As we started to walk across the wide piazza, or square that Italian cities are famous for, I noticed a big cathedral on my right. We were cutting across the piazza in a diagonal, hoping to find someone who could help us. I happened to look up at the tower of the cathedral. Just as I did, the clouds pulled away and the moon shown through brightly. I could see a big angel holding up a gleaming sword.

He was looking right at me with a stern look. It felt like he was reproaching me for being grumpy and having a lack of faith. I stopped in startled amazement. It only lasted for a few seconds because the clouds pulled back together and the cathedral was covered with shadows again.

I couldn't say anything because it had happened so fast. I walked quickly to catch up with the others. It seemed like I had new energy and strength. Most of all, I had a fresh conviction to be praiseful and positive no matter how bad things look.

That evening, we found a kindly policeman who spoke enough English to understand our situation. He helped us find a friendly hotel owner who put us up for free. In the morning, the policeman bought us breakfast and helped us catch the train back home.

I never forgot about seeing that angel. I felt bad that he had to reproach me for my attitude. If I ever see him again, I hope I'll be in the right spirit so I get a happy look of approval instead.

* * * *

16. At the first sight of something that portends to present big problems for you, start fighting with extreme praise from the very onset of the problem, even if it goes against your natural mind. This will result in your gaining the spiritual strength and fortitude that it takes to win the victory over the problem. You can even **use** the problem to gain **more** victories.

17. The secret of extreme praise is in thanking Me and expressing positive words to Me in spite of the pain, the hardship, the troubles and the adversities that I allow you to encounter in your life for Me. That's fighting wholeheartedly for the victory! Don't settle for anything less!

18. When you are fighting with the weapon of extreme praise, it's not even the words themselves that matter so much, but it's your attitude that counts; that's what sways My heart, and will actually change the situation for good.

19. When you go so far as to thank and praise Me for allowing you to be in a difficult circumstance or to confront a big obstacle in your service for Me, it's a manifestation to Me of your faith that I am in control of everything in your life, even the bad things, and that you can say in the face of these things, too, "It is well with my soul."

20. Using the weapon of extreme praise means actually praising Me for the problem itself, for the "bad" thing itself, which goes against all that you feel like doing. But when you do that, it shows Me that you trust Me for the outcome according to what I know is best.

* * * *

(True story:) Have you heard about the guy that rode off that time from his church with all the wires cut in his car? The boy that told me was in his 20s. He was greasing my car and he was a Christian and I asked him how he got saved. He says, "You really want to know? Well, I'll tell you, I was scared into it." I said, "What do you mean?"

He says, "Well, this evangelist at our little church was always praising the Lord; we called him 'Hallelujah'; he was always praising the Lord about everything. No matter what would happen he was always praising the Lord. We boys said, 'We're going to fix his wagon so he won't say hallelujah!'"

And so while he was in church that Sunday morning preaching they went out and cut all the wires in his car, cut every one of them, all the wires to all the cylinders, ignition wires--cut 'em! He said, "We hid around the corner of the church. We were going to have a big laugh at him when he finally started cussing when he found the wires cut. We figured, 'He's going to cuss on this one.'"

Like most preachers he was the last one there, nobody left to push him or anything--but of course, that wouldn't have done any good anyhow. He tried and tried starting it, turned it over and over.

Of course, no car will run without ignition wires.--I mean no wires to carry the spark to the cylinders, The boy told me, "He said, 'Now, Lord, I'm Your Servant, this is Your car and I've got to go to the next meeting and I've got so much time to get there, and I don't know what's wrong with this car, Lord, and there's nobody here to help me. You're just going to have to fix it, Lord. In Jesus' name I command this car to go!' He turned on the key--broom--and off he roared!"

That is a true story! The boy said, "I was about twelve years of age and I nearly fainted in a dead faint because I knew there was no car in the world that could run with the wires cut. We felt the presence of the angel of the Lord so close we were scared stiff--either we were going to drop dead or he was going to smite us down with the sword of His judgment!

We felt like the same angel that had healed the car was standing there about ready to slay us and, man we hit the sawdust.

Let me tell you, that night in church we took Jesus; the whole gang got saved!" Just think how busy it must have kept that angel keeping the timing; you mechanics understand what I mean--shooting the juice to each cylinder just at the right time!

* * * *

21. I see, and I know how your heart hurts and breaks. I hold you ever so close during this time of loss and heartbreak. I know how hard it is to let go of your grief and pain and to actually thank Me for it, to praise Me for allowing this loss and hardship. Your very being tells you to hold on to it and to hide it away and nurse it. But if you will open your hands wide to release this gift of grief, it will fly away on the wings of praise, and I will complete your healing. Open your heart and hands, and let praise fill your heart--praise for what I have done, praise for what I will do, and praise for how I will heal every heartbreak and grief. I will make all things beautiful once again.

22. If you find yourself in a difficult position, between a rock and a hard place, the most effective weapon you can use to help you blast through the obstacle or rise above it is praise!--Praise that flows from the innermost part of your spirit; praise that trusts Me completely and knows that everything will be okay because you're in My hands. Activating this weapon will bring immediate results.

23. Praise ignites a fire in your spirit that burns hot and bright. This fire doesn't burn or hurt you, but rather empowers you, and it empowers Me to work on your behalf. At the same time, it severely limits the Enemy's capacity and control. It burns him and his imps. The more you praise, the hotter the fire becomes, until it completely incapacitates them and destroys any hold they had.

24. Praise is your lifesaver in a perilous ocean.

Praise is your parachute that gives you a safe landing.

Praise is your set of wings that lifts you above the raging storm.

Praise is your life support.

Praise is your armor that deflects all the fiery darts and blows of the Enemy.

Praise is the key that frees you from bondage.

Praise is what will see you safely through the Great Tribulation, and right up to the end of man's rule on Earth and My return.

25. When you can meet success and failure with the same dignity, then you are spiritually mature. When you can praise Me through happiness and sadness, in plenty and in want, in safety and in danger, in health and in sickness, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death, then you are a person of great faith, a man or woman highly honored in My courts, because of your great love for Me and trust in Me.

26. Lift your heart to Heaven through your praises, and the glory will flood in, washing away the pain, fear, despair, hurt, sadness, discouragement, or anything the Enemy is trying to hold you down with. This flood is cleansing for you and destructive to the Enemy. It will leave you clean, refreshed, renewed, and revitalized.

27. Praise emits a positive spiritual energy that is clearly visible in the spirit world, and immediately effects change in the circumstances surrounding you. You don't always see this change in the physical, or at least not instantly, but in the spirit, change for the better is immediately obvious. You can ask Me to open your eyes and ears of the spirit so that you too can feel the immediate difference and partake of the positive force of energy that has enveloped you.

28. The trials and difficulties of life that seem so big now will seem so small when you look back over your life on Earth and see how clearly My hand was upon every aspect of your life. Why struggle so hard in the flesh when I'm in control? If you will ride on the wings of praise, you will learn what it truly means to rest in Me and to let Me carry your burdens.

* * * *

(True story:) Turn the rest of your life, as of this moment, completely over to God's hands and trust that He is now in complete charge. *Now* praise and thank Him for your *present* circumstances exactly as they are in every detail.

You may discover God's power going to work to move you out of your present circumstances very quickly, or you may find that God's power is transforming you in the midst of the circumstances. Whatever happens, continue to thank Him. For He is in charge.

A Christian businessman made a deeper commitment of his life to Christ, and shortly thereafter found himself laid off from his highly paid job as an executive. The man searched for another job, but cutbacks in the industry made positions scarce. His family suffered from the financial stress, and his anxieties increased as the bills mounted and his prayers seemed unanswered.

He had been unemployed for a year when he heard me speak one Saturday night about being thankful for all things. It suddenly dawned on him that God probably had a good reason for not having led him to a job, and he began to thank God for his unemployment.

All day Sunday he continued to praise God, and he discovered that his fears and resentments concerning the situation were decreasing. In their place, he felt genuine joy.

Early Monday morning the phone rang. Another executive wanted to know if he could go to work for him.

"Yes, I'm available," said the man.

"How soon can you start?"

"Tomorrow."

"Then be here at 9 a.m., ready to start."

His new job gave an excellent salary, but more important, he was in direct contact with groups of businessmen daily. His witnessing led one man after the other to accept the Lord.

The businessman told me, "As long as I carried resentment over my situation, I was blocking God from doing what He wanted to with my life. As soon as I was able to trust Him and praise Him for my life exactly as it was, He was able to take over and place me where He wanted me."

29. If you want to enhance every other spiritual weapon in your arsenal, use praise along with it, and you will truly be giving the Enemy a deadly blow. You maximize your spiritual power every time you use praise.

30. Everything that is true, honest, just, lovely, of good report, heavenly, beautiful, and pure can be obtained by using the weapon of praise.

31. The concepts of attacking in spirit, loving the fight, being spiritually aggressive and taking the battle to the Enemy can sometimes be hard for you to grasp and understand how to put into action. Well, when you choose to praise Me for bad or tough situations, you have instantly applied all of those concepts and put them to work in your life. You are living the Art of War and you are fighting the Enemy with advanced, new-day tactics when you employ extreme praise. The instant you praise Me, even through your tears, for something that has hurt or discouraged you, you have dominated your battlefield and turned the tables on the Enemy. You have employed the freshest, newest, most cutting-edge spiritual battle tactics.

32. When something difficult happens to you, and you turn to Me and say, "Thank You, Jesus, for giving me what I need, not necessarily only what I want," that's extreme praise!

33. Do you want your faith to grow? Employ extreme praise in tough times. Extreme praise cannot exist without faith, because if you didn't believe that I'm in control of the situation, or that I couldn't bring good from it, then there would be nothing to praise Me for in trying times. So the fact that you use extreme praise means that you have faith, or that you are **working** toward having that faith. Using extreme praise builds both your praise muscles and your faith muscles, making for a powerful spiritual workout.

34. When disaster strikes your life and you feel completely devastated emotionally, you can always praise Me for how I will make everything right in Heaven. I will wipe away your every tear and repay

your every sacrifice. In Heaven, life will be perfect; so if all you can do is look ahead to that time and say, "Thank You, Jesus, for how some day You will make this all right again," that is using extreme praise.

* * * *

(True story:) There I was, sitting in the dark on an unpolished, hewn slab of granite. I was just about a hundred meters outside of a simple two-room bungalow where the four of us were staying. On a faith trip heading out to a place that none of us had been to before, we'd come across a fairly small town. An old priest had kindly given us the use of a bungalow for as long as we needed.

As it was the hottest time of the year in one of the hottest states in India, we were thankful for every cool breeze and each drop of rain. This place outside the city with fields all around and a clear, starry sky above was an answer to prayer and a touch of the Lord's love that each one of us gave praise for.

This particular night as we came back from the canteen, heading towards our bungalow, I had felt the need to just sit, look up to the sky, and thank the Lord for all He'd done. And yet amidst this feeling of appreciation and knowledge of the Lord's blessings, care and presence, I still had the question: Was I supposed to be on this trip? Was I in His highest will being here? These were the thoughts that had been on my mind ever since we'd left, three days earlier.

"Thank You, Lord, for answering every prayer, for being our ever-present help," I prayed. "You know we really need Your help on this trip to accomplish the purpose for which we've come. It's a struggle. Not much has happened, and I don't even know if we're in the right place. Are we in the right place? Am I in the right place?"

I looked straight up into the black night, desperate in my heart for His guidance and answers. There was silence--not even a feeling of knowing yes or no. I knew He was there right beside me, though, and had heard my every word, even though somehow it was not the time for Him to answer.

I went to bed that night with the same questions on my mind, but with a different feeling--one of faith and hope, knowing that God had a perfect plan and though I might be faithless, He would abide faithful. His answer was there, He had promised to give it ... and in time I would understand.

The next day so much happened. The Lord clearly showed us His plan for our trip, and each of us understood that we were exactly where He wanted us to be. A Spanish lady, Mayté, who taught in a nearby school, was drawn to our spirit and message and came to us, desperate for strength and encouragement. She was living in the closest bungalow to ours, and David had shared his testimony with her the day before.

She now came and sat down beside us, saying, "Today, I told my students that I wouldn't be free for the afternoon class as I was going to be with my friends. So here I am! Can I go witnessing with you please?"

Wow! The Lord sure makes His will very clear! What could we say? We spent that afternoon personal witnessing on the university campus--giving an Endtime class to a group of college boys, passing out tracts and winning souls--with Mayté right beside us. On our way back, a light shower cooled the air and a beautiful rainbow beamed across the sky as the sun set, painting it with wonderful and diverse colors. The five of us shared testimonies together that evening, singing songs and answering Mayté's questions about salvation, God's love and His plan for man.

Mayté had come to India searching; she'd had enough of the world, and after a nervous breakdown desired only the true, simple, lovely things of life, and so right away appreciated our fellowship. But there was a war in the spirit; since she'd been in India, the darkness and false truths of various other religions had not only planted their seeds, but had begun to take root. God's light was shining through the darkness, and we could feel the struggle between good and evil. Like a newborn lamb that knows the shepherd's voice and follows, deep inside Mayté wanted so much to be free.

Night arrived, and we all hugged and said goodnight. A friend passed by, and looking up said, "It looks like there's a storm coming."

Gazing up and thinking about what he'd just said, I thought, "Yeah, maybe next month. The sky looks pretty clear to me, and it's not monsoon season for at least another four months."

But at 12:30 the winds suddenly began to blow hard and fast, and sure enough, we were soon engulfed in a storm. The little bungalow that we were staying in wasn't yet ready for the rains, and lying in my bed I suddenly remembered something I'd noticed the day before--the walls of our bungalow, water-stained from top to the bottom.

"Uh-oh," I thought.

Then David jumped to his feet, saying, "Is it raining inside or what?"

Turning on the light we could see water pouring down the sides of the wall, as though our house was built at the bottom of a waterfall.

With the roof leaking like a strainer and water filling up the halls, our lights all went out. Crystal and Esther ran over from their room to ours, laughing and screaming, "Disaster!"

We went outside and Mayté came out too, and we talked about what we could do. The rain seemed to be subsiding, but water was still rushing well up to our ankles.

"Well, we moved the beds and our suitcases, and now that the rain is dying down I guess we can just go back to sleep and clean up the mess in the morning," someone said.

We were standing right outside Mayté's room. I turned around, and as I placed my foot down, I suddenly shouted out in pain. "My God, what was that?"

I knew that it was probably a scorpion, and I was scared. I grabbed the flashlight and looked down by my left foot. Sure enough, there was an ugly, black two-inch scorpion, with his stinger straight up.

At that moment it felt like no more than a hornet's sting on the side of my foot, but the knowledge of what my foot would look like in the morning was in itself excruciatingly painful.

Knowing that all things come of His hand, the first thing that came to my mind was, "What is the Lord trying to tell me?" Being careful not to step on my foot (as that would increase the spread of the poison up towards my leg), I hopped into Mayté's room and sat on the floor, desperately praying in my heart for a miracle.

Mayté was very concerned, and scrounged around for painkillers. The rest of the team laid hands on my foot, as we prayed with all of our hearts, claiming verses and the Lord's promises.

Looking around Mayté's bungalow, I could almost feel a war in the spirit for the soul of this woman. Pictures of Hindu gods and idols were set on a table with a little candle, where she would meditate every night in search of inner peace. And now right outside her door a black scorpion, like a demon itself, had attacked and then, as suddenly as it had come, had disappeared without a trace.--David had gone after it with the flashlight and a stick, but could find no trace of it.

By now my foot was warm and I could feel the poison already traveling upwards. In just a few minutes the poison had reached my leg and was still advancing, but for some reason the pain seemed to be subsiding instead of increasing. Mayté offered to go and get help, as did the others, but I insisted no, as they'd have to travel quite a distance through the flooded ground, obviously infested with scorpions and possibly even poisonous snakes. At the same time the Lord seemed to be giving me the grace and the trust which He had promised.

"Oh God, I hope this is not dying grace, but thank You for it," I prayed. I had never had an experience like this before, and had always wondered what I'd do or if I'd have faith to trust His Word and ways.

With nothing else we could do except trust God, I said, "Don't worry about me, I can hardly feel the pain. Let's go to bed, just trust the Lord and His promises and prayer, and do what we can in the morning."

But once I was lying down, the inner battle continued. “Will I die from this scorpion's sting? Will David wake up tomorrow, pull back the covers to my bed and find nothing but one big swollen foot? Why did this happen? Am I supposed to have a swollen, painful leg on this road trip? Or am I supposed to be healed?”

Jesus soothed my fears and right then I knew that this sting was for a purpose, and the purpose was to be a testimony. Mayté had seen the scorpion sting my foot, and now she was going to see Jesus heal it. Knowing this gave me faith.--I had the shield, my protection, and now I was able to take up that white hot sword of the spirit and attack.

“David,” I said, sitting up again, “the Lord wants this to be a testimony. Will you fight with me now and claim this victory? I need help!”

Together we pulled out some promises, a New Testament, and a quote book, and claimed each verse and quote with our whole hearts, praising the Lord. We could almost feel the Enemy, those demons of darkness that were trying to take Mayté's soul, fighting the light, and fighting this testimony. But they couldn't touch us and that scorpion couldn't touch me unless God, like with Job, allowed him his wish in order to accomplish God's will. Now I just had to do my part, and I knew exactly what it was.

The next morning, the first thing I did when I woke up was to look at my foot. All I could do was praise God: There was a healthy, whole foot with nothing left but a red dot.--No pain, no swelling, nothing.

The other folks that lived around that area were amazed. One Spanish man asked, “What's your blood made out of?” Most couldn't believe it. Others said, “It's a miracle!”

Mayté, with a baffled mind but a believing heart, testified to everyone: “I was there! I saw it! It's a miracle! They prayed and had so much faith.”

That day a new feeling was born in my heart. The Lord had certainly answered our prayers, but even more than that, there was

something new--not foreign, but extra--that was there in my heart: A greater understanding of how much Jesus loves me and lost souls, how wonderfully He works, and that His ways are not past finding out if we ask Him.

* * * *

35. To meet any situation without praise is to overlook My presence in it. After all, if I am there--and I **am**--surely you could at least praise Me for the fact that whatever it is, I'm going through it with you. When you think about it like that, you can never say that there's nothing to praise for.

36. This situation that is troubling you so and making you so unhappy, I allowed it, and I am planning to turn it into something beautiful. Please praise Me for this blessing in disguise.

37. If you've prayed for bread, but it seems that I keep giving you stones, maybe it's because I'm trying to help you to build an oven, so that you'll soon be able to bake all the bread you need. There's nothing I give you that you can't be thankful for.

38. This is a life of faith, not sight. That's why you're able to praise Me for things you haven't seen yet. With faith, time is irrelevant. You have the assurance that sooner or later I'm going to do everything that I've said I would, and that's worth praising for.

39. The Bible tells of whole cities and regions that I was not able to help or do many miracles for because of their unbelief in My power. Don't make that the story of your life. According to your faith and according to your praise, it will be done unto you. If you believe that I can turn bad to good, and you praise Me for this, then I can. But if you believe that a situation is beyond My help to fix, and because of your lack of faith you can't find anything in it to be praiseful for, you will limit Me through your unbelief, and that sad attitude will become reality for you.

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(True story:) My four-year-old daughter Tanya and I went to visit a Christian lady who had previously been our neighbor, and had been suffering from an itching problem for the past two years. After reading the Word with her for some time, the Lord showed me to let Tanya pray for the lady's healing, which she readily agreed to do.

I asked Tanya to hold the lady's hand. From the moment Tanya started praising the Lord while holding her hand, the lady started to speak in tongues, crying, praising, and thanking the Lord. After we'd finished praying, she told us how she'd felt some power coming through Tanya's hands into her body, healing her. She was so thrilled about how the Lord had healed her. For me it was an awesome experience as well.

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40. The Devil may have been allowed to bring something negative into your life, but as soon as you praise Me for it, regardless of where it came from, Satan is immediately ushered out of the picture. Your situation is then surrounded only by Me and My good helpers who can aid and assist you in putting everything back together again.

41. In the restaurant of life, you can choose to sit in the "Satan" or "non-Satan" sections. It's how praiseful you are that decides whether the meal of your life will be choked with the sickness-causing fumes of the Enemy, or whether you'll dine in joy and peace, free from any negative influences. The moment you praise, you're instantly ushered to the non-Satan section, and I'm quite sure you'll find the atmosphere there much more to your liking.

42. Gratitude in any situation is a magical spell that holds true spiritual power. When you offer gratitude, and you really mean it, you have invoked My full power to prosper and bless your life. You'd be crazy not to express magic words of gratitude in every situation in which you find yourself.

43. What's happened has happened, and praising Me for it can't possibly make anything worse; in fact, I've promised that it can make things a whole lot better. You've got nothing to lose by praising, so why don't you give it a try?

44. Praise puts a stopper in the mouth of the Enemy and opens wide the floodgates of My possibilities. When you shut off giving any credit to the Devil for his evil deeds or his attempts to discourage--but instead, you turn what he has done into victory praise to Me, and you sing My victory over him--this so traumatizes him that it gives you a significant advantage over him.

45. It takes practice to learn to be an extreme praiser in each tough situation. I understand that there will be times when it's not your first reaction, but as you continue to praise, it will come more naturally and you will get hooked as time progresses! Just as someone experiences his first thrill in an extreme sport and is hooked, so will you be as you continue to push the extreme limits with praise.

* * * *

***(Jesus speaking:)* Let Me hold you close. Let Me calm your fears. Let Me soothe your heart through My Word.** Let the power of praise give you new strength and a fighting spirit to continue to trust Me. There is no situation that is outside the reach of My love. There is no one who is beyond My help if they are willing to receive it--and even if they don't seem to want to receive it now, I will never give up on them. There is no heartache that I will not heal. There is no situation that is completely bad, because there is always something good that will come from it, for those who trust in Me.

* * * *

(True story:) A young teacher was spending her summer vacation in the mountains when a letter was mailed from the superintendent's office telling her to report for a conference concerning next year's assignment. She didn't get the letter, and when she didn't show up for the conference, her job was given to someone else.

When she returned from her vacation, she discovered that she was unemployed.

Her first impulse was to panic and go home to her parents in another state. School was to start in two weeks; there were no job openings in the district; and she had heavy financial obligations from her college days.

This young lady had just read *Prison to Praise* and recognized her present situation as an opportunity to practice what she'd learned. She quenched the impulse to panic, thanked God that He had allowed her to lose her job, and thanked Him for His perfect plan for her life.

For two days she praised God, fighting back every temptation to despair. On the third day a neighbor talked to her across the back fence.

"You know, you really ought to be teaching in a Christian school," she said. "Why don't you call the principal of the school where my son goes?"

The young teacher did, and discovered to her surprise that a position as first-grade teacher had been left suddenly vacant. She was interviewed and got the job.

"I know that God was able to take over the situation because I trusted Him enough to praise Him," she said. "If I'd pulled my usual old trick of panicking and running home to Mom and Dad, I might still have been unemployed and fussing at God for not looking after me."

Her new job suited her far better than the old one. She was able to freely share her faith in the classroom, and could openly pray with several of the children who had behavior problems.

God had a perfect plan and a perfect place for the young teacher and for the Christian businessman. He closed the doors to the jobs they had held and thought they wanted, and He opened the right doors when they trusted Him and praised Him for their unemployment.

Resentment and fear, grumbling and complaining, cause delays in the unfolding of God's plan for us. He has a perfect time plan, and we must realize that His timing doesn't always coincide with ours.

The Victory Squadron

(Vision:) I'm seeing what appears to be a formation of beautiful white birds flying high in the sky above me. But these are no ordinary birds, because they're huge and they're flying at incredible speed in a v-formation, like geese do.

Now, in unison, the angle of their formation is starting to move upward toward the sun, and instead of looking like birds they appear to be a formation of fighter jets. But they still have beautiful, majestic, birdlike wings. There's this beautiful harmony of wings, glistening white and armored silver.

Now their formation is flowing to the left, then downward, until I see the point of their formation pointing vertically and sharply toward Earth. It appears they are preparing to form some kind of "attack" position. I'm now able to zoom in and see them more clearly.

They're beautiful angels of some kind. They have massive angelic wings which appear to be part of their arms. On their torsos and different parts of their bodies they're wearing beautiful shining silver armor. That's probably why they looked almost like fighter jets from afar, also because of the speed and formation in which they were traveling.

They have a very serious, determined look on their faces--a look of intense focus. Now I'm seeing what lies below them: It's a massive dark and dirty horde of the Enemy's forces gathered at ground level. Now I'm zooming out again and I'm seeing an incredible display of angelic force and power. This formation of angels is moving at what appears to be supersonic speed toward the Enemy's forces! It looks like they're actually going to smash right into them, but just as they're about to do so, there's a powerful blaze of laserlike light that emanates from the tip of the angelic formation, eradicating the Enemy's forces of darkness below them. I'm looking at the Enemy's forces, and it looks like "ground zero" where they were--a complete wasteland! They are literally G-O-N-E--completely eradicated! Wow, that's so cool! They were literally evaporated, hallelujah! The angelic formation swoops

over the wasteland below, before soaring into the air again with perfect ease and synchronization. They're obviously familiar with this sort of mission--true professionals in every sense of the word!

Now, as if in conclusion of this awesome display of power, they all move downward again--although this time it's as if they're performing an aerial ballet, it's so graceful and beautiful. Still in their "formation" positioning, each one of them floats gently to the ground. As they lower their wings, their wings disappear and they each raise their arms in jubilant praise to our Husband and Lover.

(True story:) We were set up to watch a special Christian video. It had taken quite a bit of logistics to get it all to work with a computer and screen and sound system. There was only one computer we could use, my personal one, as it alone had the right port to do it. Wonderfully when I tried out the DVD on it--unlike most of the other laptops--the DVD worked and played right away. Then again as we tried it to check out the sound it worked quickly and well.

However, when we were at their house and getting it all set up, the DVD wouldn't play.

So we prayed. And I got the thought that the Lord wanted us to honour Him with praise. So I said: "Shall we fight with praise?" to the two men and 3 pre-teen/teen boys.

I can't say it was the most wild praise fest that followed, but we sincerely, quietly spoke out with things we were thankful for from the last week, that the Lord had done for us. We praise Him and spoke our gratitude.

Then after most people had said something aloud, I felt to try again. And this time it worked immediately. I lifted my arms to praise Him, though I said nothing, I was really really thankful that He got Himself honour and showed all there that praise was the way to His heart.

Then just to make sure I was humble, I then tripped on the wire and pulled out the sound cord a bit. I got out of the way while the friend fixed that up again.

The Lord showed He wanted to be honoured first and foremost. Those there saw that praise is a way to fight the hinderances. I was kept humble. Even expressing to praise was humbling for me, but I knew it was what He was requiring. We had a good time, trouble free.

* * * *

(Jesus:) These praise angels are who I want you to start calling on when it comes to using praise specifically as an offensive weapon against the Enemy. They are professionals!--Created and empowered to annihilate the Enemy every time. They are sharp and skilled angelic military strategists of the highest level--My "fighter jets" of the spirit! You may refer to them as the "Praise Squadron," or the "Victory Squadron," named after their echelon military formation and because praise is the victory and always wins out over the Enemy. So according to your personal preference, you may refer to them as either one.

* * * *

(Jesus:) This Praise Squadron is separate from your personal praise helpers. The Praise Squadron will help you learn how to be more militant and aggressive in your praises and use them to target and defeat the Enemy. The Praise Squadron is an integral part of the praise hierarchy in the spiritual realm, as well as part of the link and connection between you first using the weapon of praise and the "performance" or "completion" of the weapon of praise being used offensively against the Enemy's forces.

I wish for My brides to learn to use the weapon of praise more as an offensive weapon on a regular basis--in preemptive strikes against the Enemy--rather than the more defensive approach with praise when you find yourself under attack.

I want My children to get stirred up in spirit when it comes to praise and actively use it in a more militant style of spirit and speech. When I say militant, I mean that you are trained and disciplined personally in your use of praise, and you do it whether you feel like it or not--you throw yourself into praise to Me, you call on the help of those who assist you in praise and in defeating the Enemy through your praises, and through that decision, you become strong against the Enemy, for

praise is the undefeatable weapon! This is where My Praise Squadron comes in: They are skilled military strategists in the field of praise and its power against the forces of evil.

So it would behoove all My children to call on the Victory Squadron to give them more of an aggressive "fighter" nature when it comes to using praise as an offensive weapon against the Enemy. Any one of My children can call on the Victory Squadron to not only remind them to not take the Enemy's attacks lying down, but to spiritually instruct them in becoming a more skilled and accomplished proactive strategist and fighter in the spirit when both praying and praising.

When each of My children seek Me as to how to personally become a more militant fighter and praise-wielder--which each one of My brides should do--calling on the Victory Squadron as part of your offensive weaponry of praise is an important part of being able to receive all the personal and custom-made instruction I wish to give each of My brides.

* * * *

(True story:) For nearly twenty years I suffered with stomach trouble. Many foods gave me extreme discomfort. I'd gone the rounds of doctors and taken all kinds of medicines, but nothing helped.

I prayed and tried to believe that God would heal me, with no apparent result. Others prayed for me--Christian leaders well-known for their effective ministry in healing, prayer groups, and friends--but the problem continued.

I claimed the promise Jesus gave in Mark 16 that not even poison could hurt me, and frequently ate whatever foods were served to me. But again and again I would be miserably ill, unable to sleep, and feel extremely sorry for myself.

I finally decided to accept on faith the fact that I had been healed by Jesus' death for me, and to believe that the symptoms would go away when He was ready. For several years I rested on that assurance and thanked God for working in my life in this way for whatever good He wanted to accomplish.

Before I retired from the army, the doctors decided to operate on my stomach. They found nothing obvious to explain the years of pain I had gone through, and consequently could do nothing to improve my condition.

As I lay in my hospital bed after the operation, the pain increased in severity beyond anything I had endured before. Pain-killers or drugs had no effect. Hour after hour I lay without sleeping, feeling as if the darkness of the room was closing in on me. I fought against the temptation to give in to the terror I felt. I didn't want to die, but dreaded living in such misery.

At the moment when the blackness seemed darker than ever, I cried out, "Lord, I don't care what happens or how miserable I am, I thank You for this entire experience. I know You are going to bring something good out of it."

Instantly the darkness of the hospital room was shattered by a brilliant white light, brighter than the sun. It was as bright as the light I'd seen in a vision several years before. At that time, the Holy Spirit had explained the vision to me. There was a dark cloud hovering over a sunny meadow, and above the cloud was a bright, white light. Up above the cloud was the state of joy and blessing Jesus had already secured for us, but to get there, we had to climb on a ladder straight through the dark cloud of confusion and pain. Inside the cloud it was impossible to know what direction to take through the use of our ordinary senses--sight, hearing or feeling. The ladder could only be climbed on faith, and by praising God each step of the way. Climbing through that dark cloud, we would be stripped of our dependence on our senses and learn to trust God's Word. The ladder of praise would lift us right up into the heavenlies, to take our place there with Jesus.

As I lay on my bed in the hospital room, my entire body flooded by that wonderful, brilliant light, I suddenly realized that what had once been a vision, now was a reality.

The years I had walked by faith, believing that God was using my pain for good, were years of climbing through the cloud of darkness and uncertainty. Without the cloud, I would never have learned to let go of my reliance on my senses and feelings. Now I could

wholeheartedly thank God for every circumstance of my life that added to the dark cloud. How else could I have learned to utterly trust in Him? How else could I have come to experience this beautiful saturation of light and joy?

When I returned home from the hospital, I discovered that God had done something about the condition of my stomach as well.

The foods that had once sent me into hours of pain no longer bothered me. I rejoiced in my new freedom to eat strawberries, apples, bananas, ice cream--all the things I had tried to stay away from for years.

Over the years, others had been healed instantly as I prayed for them, but God had chosen to strengthen my faith by letting me trust in His Word.

(Jesus:) The Victory Squadron are both activated by your praises and are the official executors of My praise power against the Enemy's strongholds and attacks. They are also skilled instructors in spiritual warfare.

Looking at it in a military sense, when you call on the Victory Squadron, you'll instantly be assigned your own praise "combat companion" in the form of one of the Victory Squadron going into battle with you, instructing you in the art of strategic offensive praise warfare. They will guide you in the how-tos of offensive praise so it's executed with pinpoint accuracy against the Enemy.

These Praise Squadron angels work in unison with your personal praise angels, but they are specifically equipped and empowered to help you and personally instruct you in tough, rigorous times of combat and warfare against the Enemy. As I said, as you call on them, they will go into battle side by side with each of you, My brides.

So, yes, just as your praise angels do, they will prod and remind you to praise, but their specific expertise lies in instructing and teaching you how to use praise proactively and aggressively against the Enemy. Just as a soldier has to be skilled in not just one area of combat

but many, My Praise Squadron have a three-fold mission and portfolio: To prod and encourage you to praise; to instruct you personally in becoming a more powerful offensive praise-wielder; and to execute My praise power against the Enemy and his forces.

Each one of you has an invisible and powerful "soldier at arms" beside you from one of the many Victory Squadrons when you activate their power in preemptive strikes against the Enemy, as well as during times of protracted battle against his forces. There are literally Victory Battalions of the spirit--made up of thousands upon thousands of Victory Squadrons--further than the eye can see! They are at your command when you call on them, and their full power is seen when you let loose with unrestrained praise!

* * * *

(Jesus:) You might wonder, if I've told you that even one of My angels could take on all the demons of Hell and Satan himself, why do you need all these multitudes of Victory Squadrons? Why not just send down Michael and let him blast away, and presto-chango, problem solved?

The answer is similar to why not just drop a nuclear bomb on any enemy you might have? Problem solved--or is it?

If your only goal is total destruction, that might work. If your goal is as Mine is: to do all I can to help each soul I have created to choose the light of their own free will, then it becomes an entirely different scenario.

Millions in the days ahead will turn to Me in their times of desperation. These multitudes of Praise Battalions are designed to ensure that the minions of Satan are silenced, held at bay, or driven back in accordance with the choices of man in these days of darkness. They are the manifestation of both your prayers for the lost and the prayers of all My children in the spiritual realm for those who must pass through these days of Great Tribulation.

* * * *

When we need infilling of the Holy Spirit of God, we praise.

"But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel," we read in Psalm 22:3.

When Jesus went to pray for life and spirit to come to Lazarus, He praised.

* * * *

(True story:) The consequences of our failure to be thankful in the little things are not always apparent to us, but once I was taught a stern lesson.

It was a busy morning in our chaplain's office at Fort Benning, and everything seemed to go wrong. The senior man in charge had not shown up for work, and none of the others seemed to know what to do. Telephones were ringing, work was piling up, and I began to feel impatient with the man who had not reported for duty. Of course, my attitude didn't make him arrive, nor did it improve the situation. I grumbled under my breath through most of a miserable day.

The next day the man returned and explained that he had gone to the hospital where he was told that he had a cancerous growth in his sinus. Overcome at the news, he had gone home to spend the day in bed, not caring if he ever got up again.

I was overwhelmed with remorse. I'd fussed over the insignificant delays at the office, instead of thanking God for the man who was absent. My grumblings had effectively put me out of commission as a channel for God's love and power flowing toward the sick man that day.

One man heard me speak about praising God for everything and promised God from that moment he would be thankful for everything that happened to him.

He and his family drove home from the meeting through a snowstorm in below-zero weather. They arrived home late at night, and the moment they stepped in the front door, they knew something was wrong. The house was ice-cold, and the furnace was dead.

The family huddled upstairs while the man walked down to the basement to check the furnace. He knew nothing about furnaces and had no idea what might be wrong.

He stood staring at the cold, silent furnace, and his first impulse was to pray that God would help him get it going again. Without heat in the house, He would have to take his family to a warm shelter for the night.

Then the thought came to him, "Are you thankful now?"

"I'm sorry, Lord, I forgot," he prayed. "But I know You must have planned this for our good, so thank You for this furnace, just as it is."

At that moment a very distinct suggestion came into his mind: "Check the fan."

"The fan? I don't even know where it is!"

"Look behind the plate on the right side," came the thought.

He found a screwdriver and began removing the plate. The whole scene suddenly struck him as ridiculous. Was he just imagining things? Was the fan really behind that plate? But if God was really at work giving him this direct kind of help, he couldn't stop now, he reasoned.

His fingers were numb with cold, but the plate came off--and there was the fan.

Now what? he thought.

"Look for the fan belt; it is off."

It was too dark to see inside the furnace, so he got a flashlight and directed the beam down the small opening in the furnace. There was the fan belt, lying loose. He slipped it over the drive shaft on the fan and removed his arm from the narrow opening. The furnace remained cold and silent.

"What now?" he prayed.

"Turn the furnace switch," came the suggestion.

As soon as he turned the switch, the furnace came alive with happy dancing flames, and the man ran upstairs to share with his family how God had blessed them with a cold furnace. The cold furnace was a God-given opportunity to learn in practice that praise releases the power and guidance of God.

Following the furnace incident, that man's life was changed. He began to listen for the voice of God in all situations, and today has developed a rare sensitivity to it. His open ear to the guidance of God has made him a channel for God's power in the lives of others also.

The first step was an act of faith, believing that a cold furnace on a dark, snowy night was an expression of God's loving concern for his and his family's welfare. He could have passed up that first opportunity, and I am sure that God would have provided other challenges. You and I are confronted with opportunities to recognize God's hand in every situation of our daily lives. How many opportunities do we pass up?

* * * *

When your heart is weighted down with worry, fear, sorrow, or pain, instead of dwelling on your losses and woes, think about Jesus and His love. Count your blessings. Think about the love of your family and friends. If you can't think of anything else to be thankful for, you can at least be grateful for all the problems, troubles, and ailments you could have but don't because God has spared you from them!

Look on the bright side. Think on the *good* things. "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things."

Thank God for all He has done. Chase away the Devil and all his shades of night by letting the light in-God's positive light of Scripture, the Word, prayer, praise, songs. Do anything you can to occupy your mind completely with positive thinking! It's a kind of work therapy. It's a prayer and praise therapy. It's a Scripture therapy, and it chases away the shades of night!

If you're thinking about the Lord and putting Him in the center focal point of your concentration and your consciousness, then this pushes the Devil and all his doubts and lies and fears into the outer fringes. You can't be positive and negative at the same time. Fill your mind and mouth with the light of praise to God, and it will push the darkness out.

* * * *

(True Story:) The thing we dread most about car travel is the car sickness from the fumes. We try to do what we can to keep enough air coming in, but it's not easy. The other vehicles emit more than their share, so combined with our vehicle's odour, it gets a bit much at times.

On the way home we found a surprising way that made none of us suffer from car sickness. We didn't expect it to happen—it was just a game my husband had suggested we play. It turned out to be such a benefit.

The game was: one person would think of a chorus of a Christian song or hymn, and whoever knew it would sing it. The last word of the chorus was thought about, and a song or hymn that had that word in it would be the next song to sing. Then the last word of that one was to be included in yet the next song. And on it went. So we ended up going on and on singing songs of praise, and songs about the Lord. Our mood was high, we were happy--singing is actually an immunity booster—anyway, for some reason while doing so, not one of us suffered nausea. Praising God in song did the trick!

Another time I was feeling the nausea coming on while driving, and I remembered what I'd read and heard recently about the life the Holy Spirit gives, and chases away sickness. I needed a boost of the Holy Spirit. So I started to speak in tongues and praise the Lord in tongues while we were driving. And zoom! the car sickness departed instantly!

Another time I began quoting psalms that I had memorised. The Holy Spirit "brought all things to my remembrance" as I started to quote them. Like lightning speed I quoted psalm after psalm, saying them very rapidly and remembering them. That was a miracle.

The Word just poured out of my mouth without me hardly thinking about what to say next. It felt like living water pouring out. The presence of the Lord's Spirit, and the praise Words from the Bible removed the sick feeling and I was fine and well!

(I notice that when I read books in the care I got sick—but if I was reading the Bible aloud to the children, even when turned around and twisted in my seat to face the back of the car where they were sitting, I didn't get car sick. In fact it would block the car sickness. The Word, the Holy Spirit, and praising Jesus in Word and song and in tongues were more powerful than the physical pulls of unwellness.)

* * * *

Yes, life is a struggle. In some ways it may be even more of a struggle now than before you let Jesus into your life, because of the Devil's attempts to stop you from following God's will. But at least now you can know that your difficulties and trials are all for a *purpose*.

Your loving heavenly Father watches over you and has planned every detail of your life. He knows exactly what you need, He knows what He wants you to become, and He promises to bring some good out of every difficulty. He will support, strengthen and sustain you through each test.

He loves you, and everything that He allows to come into your life—whether it seems good or bad, whether it is a test or a chastening—is all for the best. If you trust Him through it, you will become a better, wiser, more loving, more useful Christian—a tool in His hands, a vessel through which He can freely pour forth the waters of His love and Word to comfort and strengthen others in need.

So when things seem dark, confusing or cloudy, when tears fill your eyes and despair tries to take hold of your heart, look away from yourself and this world's woes. Look up into the eyes of One who loves you and tenderly cares for you. Find comfort in His loving arms, and find peace and faith through His strengthening Words of life.

Look on all that He has blessed you with, and thank Him for it. And then look up and forward to all that He has in store for you, the rewards and blessings that He has promised for those who persevere and hold on. Keeping your eyes on the end of the road-Heaven, will be a great encouragement to you, and will reassure you that the difficulties you may go through here are worth it all.

As you please the Lord by persevering in your relationship with Him and manifesting His love to others through your words and deeds despite the obstacles, difficulties or trials, He will be so pleased that He will bless you with the desires of your heart forever! "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Be an overcomer!

* * * *

Even in our darkest hours, we can cultivate an attitude of gratitude. No matter what is happening around us, we can choose to respond in a way that will help us learn and grow. When we look at our difficulties as opportunities for growth, then we can be grateful for the lessons we are learning from these difficult experiences. There is always a gift in every experience. Expressing gratitude allows us to find it.

* * * *

(True story:) At a retreat near Fort Benning, several young people made a promise to thank God for all things. The next day one of the soldiers was notified that a favorite uncle had been killed in a tractor accident on the farm. Immediately the thought came to the soldier, "Now see what happened! You made that silly commitment to praise God. Your uncle wasn't even a Christian!"

The soldier recognized the source of that thought, and resisted the temptation to complain to God about his uncle's death. Instead he prayed, "Lord, You know how much I loved my uncle, but You loved him more, so You must have had a good reason for letting him die. I'll just thank You and praise You for doing what was best."

The soldier felt a peace about his uncle's death, but was unable to shake off a concern for his cousin who had just recently accepted Jesus. How would he take his father's death? The soldier wanted to go home for the funeral in order to encourage his cousin, but he was unable to get leave.

"Okay, God," he prayed. "You know all about my cousin, so I'll just thank You that I can't go." He thought he would call home and ask his parents to convey a message to his cousin, and stepped into a phone booth to make the call.

When a voice answered at the other end, he immediately recognized his cousin. "How are you?" he blurted out in surprise.

"I'm praising the Lord," came the answer. "We're all so glad that Dad accepted Jesus several days before the accident. He had time to tell everybody what God had done for him, and we know it was God's will that he go to heaven now."

Others are drawn to Jesus when we praise God. If we grumble and complain as bitterly as our non-Christian friends over the many little upsetting incidents of our days, others conclude that our faith does no more for us than having no faith does for them. Unless they can see, in the nitty-gritty of our daily lives, that Jesus makes a difference, how can we expect them to believe when we say they need Jesus?

It isn't what we say, but what we are and what we do that draws others to Jesus in us.

* * * *

The interesting thing about praise is that the more you get in the habit of praising the Lord, the more you want to, and the easier it becomes. Praise is so important, because praise is the voice of faith. And we know that this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. I think sometimes we underestimate the power of praise and how tremendously effective it is in bringing the Lord's Spirit into our lives, enabling us to resist the attacks of the Enemy, and enhancing our sample to others by helping us to be more positive, more cheerful, and more uplifting to those around us.

The Lord loves praise! He dwells in the praises of His people. So I think we'd really be missing something if we didn't make a personal commitment to learn to be more praiseful, and to praise without ceasing.

The Lord wants us to praise Him in all situations--especially when we don't feel like it. If we can build on the habit that we now have of praising the Lord regularly, I think we can make a lot of progress in learning to turn any negative, doubtful, unhappy thoughts into thoughts of praise and thanksgiving. Even when we're tempted to be out of it, or critical, or to complain a little bit--either in our thoughts or with our words--if we'll just make a conscious effort to think about our blessings, to dwell on all the good, to concentrate on all that the Lord has done for us and all the ways that He's kept us, and blessed and prospered and protected us, then I think it'll do a lot to help us get over any bad habits we may have where our first reactions are negative, murmury, or even just indifferent.

Praise is powerful! The Lord wants our praise.

Praise is another good [New Year] resolution. I could say you should fast from complaining, grumbling, moaning, murmuring, and objecting, but let's emphasize the positive and say you should praise instead! Turn every negative thought into a praise. Did you get sick? Thank the Lord that it gives you more time flat on your back, where the only direction you can look is up, and where you can stand on the Lord's promise that "many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). Are you having financial problems? That's great! Now you can put the Lord on the spot and test and prove His promise that "my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19), as well as delve into His Word to see what else He has to say about finances and supply. So resolve to praise, and make it a habit in every situation.

One night when I went to check on my daughters, I saw that Amanda's hamster, Cheeky Charlie, was restless in his cage, so I let him run around the bathroom while I brushed my teeth. Then I saw him scurry behind the bidet and I was concerned that he might get stuck, so I tried to grab him, but he disappeared.

Then I realized what had happened. He had fallen through a hole where the pipes went under the floorboards. I called my husband and we tried to do all we could to rescue Cheeky Charlie, but he had disappeared into the recesses of our big house. At first we could hear him scuttling around, but then we couldn't hear him anymore, and I knew he had wandered far away. We made a little ladder for him and put it in the hole. We also put some food down there, in case he got hungry. I was so concerned that I even wanted to sleep in the bathroom, just in case he came to the hole in the night.

All this time, I was despairing and worried. Quite a few things had gone wrong recently--a crashed computer, some very expensive work that needed to be done on our car, personal battles, and now the hamster. To add to that, Amanda had already been having worries before this incident that her hamster was going to die.

I was worried, discouraged, and was beginning to wonder if perhaps the Lord was unhappy with us, or me in particular. Just then I heard my daughter, Suki, coughing in her bed, and that felt like the last straw, as I thought she was getting sick. I was sinking in negativity and discouragement. But then the Lord punched through. I remembered the book summary of *Power in Praise* (by Merlin Carothers), which I had taken to the bathroom with me. I realized that this was a perfect opportunity to do the impossible by praising the Lord that the hamster was lost and by faith he'd be rescued.

I went into the bathroom and committed the whole situation to the Lord in praise. I read a few paragraphs of the book and implemented its counsel. I sang in tongues, and I praised the Lord. Then I prayed one last prayer in faith for the hamster.

I told the Lord that I knew His eye was on the sparrow, and asked if He could have His eye on Cheeky too. I asked Him to send an angel to guide Cheeky out and return him to us safely.

Then the Lord told me that that was it--I didn't need to worry, because it was in His control. Now I just needed to keep praising Him for the whole situation. With faith in my heart, I lay down and went to sleep.

In the morning, although there was still no sign of the hamster, I refused to worry and immediately began praising the Lord. My husband told the children what had happened to Cheeky, and amazingly, Amanda's reaction was very positive.

Then the miracle happened. While I was washing the breakfast dishes, Amanda came running into the kitchen shouting that the hamster was in the living room behind the cupboard. And sure enough, there he was, safe and sound. An angel had guided him out of the recesses of the upstairs floorboards and somehow got him onto the ground floor into a room where someone was able to hear him.

Though this seems like a small thing, it was such a life-changing experience, not just because of the miracle of the lost hamster being found, but even more so because I knew that the miracle had happened because I had chosen to praise. That very day, I shared this testimony with the garage owner and he said it really was a miracle. They had had exactly the same thing happen to their hamster, and they never found him again.

I feel so full of faith now! And I am praising the Lord even for having to spend a lot of money on getting our car fixed. Praise and be thankful for everything! It surely is God's way, and releases His power into our lives to work miracles!

(Spirit helper speaking—from “400 Club”:) You know what I love to do? Though I can't make all problems suddenly vanish, I love to do research and discover all the cool ways that Jesus got people out of really tight pickles and can't-do-it type of situations. He's so clever and can really do anything. Sometimes He'll work with the physical limitations and people who are around, getting them to do His will, and other times He'll just do whatever it takes, using things that are in the spiritual realm beyond what you see, hear and feel.

It's such a thrill to find out what Jesus did, how He did it—and it's even more fun to proclaim it then to others. Even if all that you can do is say "Thank God for..." when in a conversation with others, or some simple way to acknowledge to others the Lord's goodness.

Try it for a week or so, try to see all the good things and ways the Lord works in yours and in other's lives. You can even keep a secret tally to mark how many times you noticed something good the Lord did for you or others, or that He stopped something bad from happening. That can be a simple way to praise Him.

At meal times, when you open with praise, try to think of something fresh that His lovingkindness made possible and say it to those at the meal.

There are whole movie series in Heaven, with real live footage of neat and sweet things that Jesus did. This helps us all get to see a tender side, a compassionate side to the God we serve day and night. When we watch an episode, then we all praise the Lord and have a feast of praise. It fires us up to lift our hearts in praise even more.

And you know, when you get to Heaven, you might find that a series has been made of the highlights of your life, the good things Jesus especially did for you. But the catch is, the series might only contain those events that you praised the Lord for while on Earth—good or bad things—that you praise God for and in and because of.

How long will the video of your life be? Your praises now might determine its length.

You don't want to show up to praise video night with barely a few minutes of a show. We'd all be disappointed in that, when we are all geared for a good and interesting video.

Think about it, if the video team who get clips of your life only have access to include the things you truly praised the Lord for, what show will be seen? Will it only be a video of sunshine? Or a whole series of all the meals you ate, as that was the only time you praised, and the main topic?

I wanna see some excitement! The good miracles, which were many, as well as some challenges you faced. Let's have video night together and laugh and even cry a bit, or be kept in suspense as well, a time or two—because you praised through the times when you had no idea what was going to happen next. When you have extreme praise in extremely challenging times, this makes for a great show. And of course all the sweet and heart warming moments of life to, when the Lord answered your prayers and did something really special. I love seeing that too.

So praise—and it will allow and awesome video series to be put together, showing top highlights of your life.

Without praise, some key parts of the story will have to be left out, because they didn't get permission to be in the film, as they lacked the Lord's Spirit. Praise brings the Lord's spirit into the real living video of your life that will get to be seen later on!

(True story:) Nowhere is this more apparent than in our daily lives. How do we react to delays and difficulties on the job, in emergencies, in everyday encounters? Do we react in such a way that no one sees anything different about us? Or does our reaction cause them to stop and say, "Something is different about that person. He's got something I need"?

One couple read *Prison to Praise* and were convinced that God wanted them to be thankful for everything. One night they were awakened at 2:30 a.m. by the sound of breaking glass. The man looked outside and saw that all the windows in his car had been smashed by a group of kids who were fast disappearing around the corner.

The couple agreed that God had given them an opportunity to praise Him, and they knelt by their bed, giving thanks for what had happened.

The next morning the man took his car to a garage and explained what had happened. "Thank God," he said. "I'm sure He has a wonderful purpose behind it all."

The owner of the garage shook his head.

"If something like that happened to me, I'd see to it that those young punks were made to pay," he said.

The customer smiled. "That isn't necessary," he explained. "God is in charge of the situation; I don't need to be upset about it."

The garage owner stared at him for a moment, then said, "I've been a Christian for years, but I never heard about praising God for vandalism."

They talked on, and the customer told the garage owner about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the power of God released through praise.

"I've heard about the baptism of the Holy Spirit till I've gotten sick of it," the man replied. "I have one customer who talks about nothing else. But tell me more about praising God. That sounds interesting."

The customer explained that he thought the two subjects were one, since both had to do with complete trust and commitment to God. Finally the garage owner accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of Spirit-filled businessmen, and at the meeting he experienced the baptism in the Holy Spirit for himself.

Next he committed himself to praising God for everything, and the first item on his list was his business. It had been sliding toward bankruptcy for two years.

The next afternoon one of his employees came with bad news; he had been in an accident, wrecking their truck. This could be the last straw, toppling the business.

The garage owner looked at his young employee, who stood pale and trembling, obviously expecting an outburst from his boss. Instead the garage owner smiled, put his arm around the young man's shoulders and said, "Let's praise God for this accident and believe He will work it out for good!"

A routine insurance claim was submitted, and to the garage owner's amazement, the settlement enabled him to pay urgent bills. The accident marked the turning point in his business, and his profits began to show a marked increase. It marked an even more important turning point in the life of the garage owner, who now experienced increasing joy and peace in every area of his life. In turn, a steady stream of customers came to know Jesus as their Savior because they were impressed with his obvious joy.

When the joy of Christ is released in our lives, others are drawn to Him.

* * * *

Do you feel like a pincushion and the Devil's got the pins?

Does it seem like though you're fighting, still each time he always wins?

When you want a fresh new start, but all your sins he just replays,

What you need is a new vision, and it floods in as you praise.

Praise can heal and cleanse and feed and save,

But don't think that is all.

Praise can smash and crush the Devil's pow'r,

So that you stand strong and tall.

Are your walls all weak and shaky and the storm's a rollin' in?

Do you feel like you are sinkin' in the deep quicksand of sin?

You've planned the day out to a T, yet each plan he still waylays.

What you need is a new vision; you can blast right through with praise!

Praise can heal and cleanse and feed and save,

But don't think that is all.

Praise can smash and crush the Devil's pow'r,

So that you stand strong and tall.

Do your troubles feel like bowlin' balls and you're the leading pin?
Do the works you thought were made of gold turn out to be just tin?
Does the path of hope that once was clear seem lost in foggy haze?

What you need is a new vision; you can turn the tide with praise.

Praise can heal and cleanse and feed and save,

But don't think that is all.

Praise can smash and crush the Devil's pow'r,

So that you stand strong and tall!

Claim the power of praise and hit him back, the victory's yours to win!

As you praise you'll wash defeat away, you've done the Old Boy in.

He'll be fleeing as your arms go up, his plans are set ablaze.

'Cause you claimed a brand-new vision through the weapon of pure
praise.

Praise can heal and cleanse and feed and save,

But don't think that is all.

Praise can smash and crush the Devil's pow'r,

So that you stand strong and tall!

Husband says to wife with headache:

If you were quoting scriptures & praising the lord & praying & talking in tongues I'd know you were really on the attack! It would even encourage me. But when you have these headaches & just sort of go silent, you just sort of freeze up.

Wife replies:

I always thought that that kind of thing would be drawing attention to yourself & asking everybody to concentrate on your sickness.

Husband responds: Good! Let them concentrate on it! Let others pray & praise & praise the Lord with you, quote Scriptures & stand with you in faith. Then they'd know you need prayer, they'd know you need help. "One can chase a thousand, but two can put ten thousand to flight!" (Deut.32:30)

Go on the attack & talk back to the Devil out loud! Go on the attack & start praising the Lord, quoting Scriptures, praying, talking in tongues, singing! The Devil hates song because it is praise to the Lord! Let others know that you are attacking so they can stand with you in faith! One can chase a thousand but two can put 10,000 to flight. (Deut.32:30)

(True story:)

From the Bible, 2 Chronicles 20

2CH.20:1 It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.

2CH.20:2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi.

2CH.20:3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

2CH.20:4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

2CH.20:5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

2CH.20:6 And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and

in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

2CH.20:7 Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

2CH.20:8 And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,

2CH.20:9 If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

2CH.20:10 And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;

2CH.20:11 Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.

2CH.20:12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

2CH.20:13 And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

2CH.20:14 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

2CH.20:15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

2CH.20:16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

2CH.20:17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

2CH.20:18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

2CH.20:19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

2CH.20:20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

2CH.20:21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

2CH.20:22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

2CH.20:23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

2CH.20:24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

2CH.20:25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were

three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

2CH.20:26 And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day.

2CH.20:27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

2CH.20:28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.

2CH.20:29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.

2CH.20:30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.

What wonderful lessons of FAITH, PRAYER and praise!--When faced with a tremendous battle against overwhelming opposition, Jehoshaphat desperately PRAYED and threw himself completely on the LORD, confessing his own weaknesses and inabilities. Then, after receiving God's promise that HE would give them the victory, Jehoshaphat put his FAITH into ACTION by having the singers and musicians lead the troops, shouting and singing PRAISE to the Lord.-- And God Himself miraculously delivered them from their enemies!

17. The same holds true for us today: When faced with battles and trials that seem too big for us to handle, if we will simply throw ourselves completely on the LORD & cry out to Him with our WHOLE hearts, and believe the promises of His Word, we can then go on the ATTACK, praising the Lord and thanking Him by faith for the victory!

18. PRAISE is the VOICE of FAITH! If you really BELIEVE the Lord has heard your prayers, you will start praising Him for the answer, even BEFORE you see it!

19. So when the Devil tempts you to get down in the dumps and discouraged, to fret, worry and complain about your plight, don't just sit there, FIGHT! Remember the POWER of POSITIVE PRAISE and look UP, count your BLESSINGS and start thanking and praising God!

20. The Devil cannot stand praise, he HATES it! So if you really want to overcome him, start PRAISING the LORD no matter WHAT'S happening! "SUBMIT yourselves to GOD, RESIST the DEVIL and he will FLEE from you!"--James 4:7. Launch an attack by singing, quoting Scriptures and praising God when faced with battles and trials, and JESUS will give you the victory! Keep praising, amen?

* * * *

The Holy Spirit of God, one of Whose chief characteristics is a pluck, a bravery, a lust for sacrifice for God, and a joy in it which crucifies all human weakness and the natural desires of the flesh. This is our need to-night!

Will God give to us as He gave to them? Yes! What are the conditions? They are ever the same, 'Sell out!' God's price is one. There is no discount. He gives all to such as give ALL. All! All! All! Death to all the world, to ALL the flesh, to the devil, and to perhaps the worst enemy of all—yourself,

But how illustrate so great a matter? The talk turned to the Great War and the heroism of the British Tommy, who went "over the top" at the word of command, and did it, knowing all the odds were against his coming back alive. But how describe this spirit? The question was asked of some who were present and had been soldiers, and one replied, "Well, the way the sergeant-major would describe it is that Tommy doesn't care a d_ what happens to him so long as he does his duty by his king, his country, his regiment and himself."

Those words were the spark just needed to set the train alight. Bwana [C.T. Studd] arose, raised his arm and said, "That is what we need, and that is what I want! Oh, Lord, henceforth I won't care what happens to me, life or death, aye, or hell, so long as my Lord Jesus Christ is glorified".

One after another all who were present rose and made the same vow, "I don't care what happens to me, joy or sorrow, health or pain, life or death, so long as Jesus is glorified."

The books were closed, heads were bowed once more in silent prayer, then all arose to dispense. But it was a new company that left the hut that night, and by no means the company that had entered it two hours before. There was a laughter on their faces, and a sparkle in their eyes, a joy and a love unspeakable, for each had become a soldier, a devotee to death for the glory of King Jesus his Saviour, Who Himself had died for him; the joy of battle possessed them, that joy that Peter described as 'unspeakable.'

Many vows of consecration had been taken in the past, but this was something profounder. The Tommy was willing to die though he never saw the victory; the men of faith of Hebrews xi. died "not having received the promises," "not accepting deliverance" ; and those who took this vow were now sworn to rejoice in God and shout His praises, not merely when things went well, but in starvation, in insult, in apparent failure, in death, in the fulfilment of their commission to preach the Gospel to the heathen. They had become "unconquerables" ; for those who have died in spirit already and by their own choice are beyond being moved by the threats and assaults of the devil, and are already living a resurrected and ascended life, using **every test or assault of the devil as more fuel for the Flames of faith and praise and love.**

* * * *

Someone said to me that normally a person has an aura of one meter, but they said that whenever I started to praise the Lord, my aura grew to five or six meters! Praise the Lord!

I simply have a NEED to praise. O silence not my voice, for in the day thou doest this, I shall start to die. I need to praise like I need to breathe, or eat or drink to maintain life.

I have a need to praise, as much as My Creator has a need to hear my voice declaring His Name in praiseful tones. It stirs and cheers Him as it brings me near Him. I simply have a need to praise. Thus, like pieces of a two part puzzle, I am linked, wonderously, with the one who formed me.

To His ear I press my lips and whisper my admiration, gratitude and joy. And then, as He turns a smile My way, I turn as well, I turn out my lips to declare in audible notes to all around the praises too great to hide. It's something, that if not shared with those around, is incomplete; a sense of dissatisfaction or frustration, of mournfulness will set in, if I choose to be silent and not speak out what I wish the world to know.

Ah, yes, I simply have a need to praise. To praise is to live and to enjoy life. To cherish each joy in my heart alone, though sweet, is in no way complete. I must, I simply must, in some form, in some way, tell of what I have seen, what I have enjoyed, what I have received, from the One who loves us all. I love His declarations of love, in the special manouvres that His majestic heart brings into being. And then, to say it, like an eager child in class who has discovered the answer to the question put forth by the teacher, I want to declare what I have seen His almighty hand do, right then, in front of my eyes, or for someone I know.

I can't hold it back, for it would make me turn pale and limp, and lack the lustre. Yea, I will shine while I sing and tell of His goodness, and spring up in joyous gratitude. For it really is the best answer to let the whole world know; the only thing worth singing about, worth speaking of, worth creating a master piece about--the unfailing and awe inspiring excellency of the Lord of Hosts, the God of all, the Master of my life.

When the freedom to burst forth, ever so spontaneous, in a multitude of ways, is given, then, and only then, will I truly feel alive. Just like a child declares in his voice the fact that he has been born, and

air fills his lungs, so will I, so must I, yet not with a mournful cry of pain, but in a joyous cry of the redeemed, born again into a new world, lifted from the darkness and brought into His light.

How I love to sing, to declare, to speak, to raise My arms. All this is granted to a child of God. Silence me not. "I silence you not" you say. But yea, thou dost. Not in so many words, but rather in your lack of wonder for the greatness of the Lord spread before you. You take such things for granted, and bid me do the same. How I wish we could sing in harmony, in a duet of praise when I seek to tell you of my joy at spotting yet the next token of love and goodness from my Lord and King.

Silence me not with your cloak of indifference. Banish the dampness, the lethargy, and the coldness that comes in when we lose our voice of praise. For as air enlivens the flame, making it burn bigger and brighter, and the heat and light rejoicing those cold and stumbling in darkness, so does the voice and breath of praise do so to my heart and to the hearts of those around.

Light the fire, oh brave one, those who will step out, out of step, and dare to praise our God, our king. Then let the others who enjoy this beauty add to it a breath, their breath, declaring the goodness of the Lord, as seen to them. Oh, let us praise, let us sing, and let us rejoice, every day of our life. Let praise in deed be our breath.

For what is a breath worth, but to be used to give back a gift of praise to the one that breathed the breath of life into them. Should it not be used, as an echo, to send back the response of joy to the one that calls out. It is God who has called me, and so will I respond. Not with halting and stumbling words, but with a hearty call out.

Let my voice be heard loud and long down through the valley and all over the mountains, let the echo ring, for I am called. And faithful is He that calleth me, who also will do it. I declare my knowledge of His far surpassing ability to do so, when I praise.

Do I need to praise? Can I not? No I simply cannot. I can just as well not praise as I am willing to discard my breath. And perhaps that is the connection of those who have indeed given up their will to live.

First their breath of praise has gone from them, and the rest follows.

How can this please the one who gave them life and breath? Though my voice is small, and few will ever take notice of me, yet will I praise Thee, My Lord, my King, my God, as long as I live. While I have any being. And let everything, and every one that hath breath praise the Lord.

Let them. Let us let one another. Let us fan the flame of praise in the bosom of one another, and let the light be put where it can light all around.

Shall I praise? Can I help but do so? Yes, I simply have a need to praise. Do You? then our step can be in sync, and when two walk together, they will agree; but only if the praise of their soul echoes that of their caller.

As we listen, as we respond, then we will walk in joyful union. the hard times will pass, and the joy of life and living will remain. Oh, Lord, my King, I will praise Your name forever. Yes, I simply have a need to praise; for a thousand reasons, in a million ways. Let no one hinder, for the moment I allow myself to be led into bondage and my lips are silenced, that is when I will wither. Let us rather lift up our hearts with our hands unto God, and let us sing with every other part of creation.

Sure there is some parts that groan, and even I may groan under a weight that feels too hard, too painful to bear alone. But let my voice, that is my very soul, the real me that resides, declare praise to the one who is able. For “faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.” And so I know He will. Let my soul ring out with praise, and let me praise His name forever.

* * * *

JOH.11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

JOH.11:15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

JOH.11:39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

JOH.11:40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

JOH.11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

JOH.11:42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

JOH.11:43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

JOH.11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

JOH.11:45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

(From Secrets with Jesus)

The praises of the saints for the good that God does delights Him. When God smiles, so does all that He has created. You should see when God dances! He dances when there is a great rejoicing because of His mighty acts. Like Moses' sister and the women led many to dance after the great deliverance through the flood, and all glorified Him heartily with dance and music, God danced likewise too.

It's an honour to see the most High descend from the heavenly and high throne and dance with the ones giving Him praise and honour. The musicians He has there for cheering when earthlings are praising for some great and wonderful answer to prayer, thoroughly enjoy their mission.

They know all the right tunes and notes, and put their whole heart into their ministry of praising with music.

But how sad it is to us all, when even when there is a great and mighty work of God in the earth, and He has breathed out His answers to prayer, yet the song is not ringing out in all parts of earth that know of this event. God wants to descend to dwell in the praises of His people. He wants to let loose and dance along with those who whole heartedly are praising and singing and dancing to glorify Him.

Why does He want to be where there is praise? Because that is the spiritual element that He lives in. Why don't you have your birthday party on the bottom of the ocean? Because it's not your element. Spirit dwells in spirit. The element of spirit that is placed in the souls of mankind and that they have access to while they are on earth—the pure realm, the full real and uncorrupted realm of the spirit, only is when they glorify and praise their great Creator.

So with less praise, the world gets more and more carnal, and less Heavenly. Why did more miracles occur in days of old—because there was more of the recognition that things happened because God did them. This is praise in a way, seeing the handiwork of the God of all.

When there is bad and negative spiritual activity, this isn't the real thing, but a corrupted, half-carnal state. It's like being halfway in one world and half in the other. When God cursed Satan and He fell, he was only left with a partial spiritual state—that is why he can affect so much in the physical world, because he has limited power and dwelling in the pure and full realm of the spirit, heaven's land.

So when you truly enter the spirit, through the portal of praise, that is stating that God is King and You belong to Him, and your allegiance is to Him, then you are allowed entrance to His throne room. Only those with full allegiance and properly placed loyalties are allowed to go to this freedom land, God's land. It is here that He can sing and dance and join you in praise when victories are won.

...All that to say, when you praise, that is the password that you belong to God and are thus allowed entrance to His realm. Here He loves with You, dances for you and with you, rejoices, and gives gifts.

Delight yourself in Him, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

So prayers that are breathed out from the air of His Holy Spirit, the perfume of the wife of God in heaven, are those that He loves to breathe in. Getting close to and taking in God's precious Holy Spirit will make the prayers you pray be filled with the scent God likes to breathe in—and that's when miracles happen. If they are not happening for you, either it's not His will for the current time, or you need to get deeper in the spirit, breathe in more of His spirit, and truly and deeply connect.

Why don't people have praise days! –Instead of only prayer days. These will rock heaven loose in the spirit. If people spend whole days of worshipping in song and in gratitude, and seeking out the stories of the great things God has done for others, and giving God His due reward and credit for making it happen, this would make all heaven rejoice—for when God rejoices, we all are glad, like never before. If God seems a bit stern to you, and there seem to be more corrections than compliments coming your way, maybe it's been a while since someone has really made Him smile.

That someone could be you! All you need to do is get real still and quiet, quiet down your heart and mind and soul, place all your own agenda out of the way, and get on the right connection upstairs; then you can see the sights God's Spirit shows you, and you can breathe in the right air, and then breathe out a prayer.

But before you do that—praise Him for all the many things He had done and will yet do; and end your time of deep communion with more praise—for there is always more that He does that we little humans can manage to keep up with praying for.

He does millions of things for all creation; you'll never get through praising for all that He has done, for while you were yet speaking, He did so much more. So praise! And let His spirit pray through you.