

DISCIPLESHIP STUDY

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Scripture References: 2 Chron. 20:1-24, 2 Cor. 10:3-4, 1 Tim. 1:18, Eph. 6:10-18. Acts 16:19-34

a) Read 2 Chron. 20:1-24.

This passage could be summarised as such: **V 1-13 the people intercede; V 15-17 God responds; V 20-24 the people go forth praising and find the enemy has been destroyed.**

b) Discuss whether you think it was the worship of the people of God which went ahead of them and won the battle or whether there were other ingredients involved as well. In other words, was the worship of God's people directed towards the enemy? You will find the answer to this question by looking at V15 & 17 in particular and relate these to Ps. 22:3 and Rom. 10:17.

The Effectiveness of Praise & Worship In Warfare.

Most of us have probably experienced some type of breakthrough in worship which had the effect of bringing victory over the enemy. Why does worship seem to be so effective in these situations?

As we worship, God is enthroned in our praises. We punch through into Heaven's frame of reference. As we worship, we come into unity as a people. We come into the manifest presence of God and yield ourselves anew to Him. His desires, His priorities, and His presence are exalted. His Word and His power can be released through a yielded people. Worship releases the anointing of God to break yokes. (Isaiah 10:27)

c) Look at Acts 16:19-34 and discuss from this passage the following principles of praise in warfare:

- Praise brings release
- Praise thwarts the plans of the enemy
- Praise brings the power and presence of God
- Praise brings salvation

Satan is not particularly threatened when we sing about being an army, but when we exalt the risen Lord in our midst, then darkness is exposed by the light. Satan can't stand it when God gets the glory. When we yield to God in worship, then God is able to show himself strong on our behalf.

Worship puts the enemy in perspective. God is in control. We develop sensitivity to the issues on God's heart. Worship brings us to a place where the sword of the Spirit can be used effectively. II Cor. 10:4 ...the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds"

d) What is a stronghold? Name any strongholds in your life that may need to be broken. Eg. Anger, bitterness, smoking, lustful thoughts. Pray for each other on any areas where the enemy may have got a foothold.

Choosing to worship God with your will places your mind in subjection to the Kingdom of God.

Summary

We are to realise that we are in a battle, however, it is not our duty to go around like spiritual rambos trying to bring down every stronghold. God is the one who wins the battle on our behalf. Our responsibility is to worship him and come with high praises in our mouths and God brings the victory in the heavenlies.