

LET MY PEOPLE GO - THAT THEY MAY WORSHIP ME

LOF3

INTRODUCTION:

- IN THE NEXT 2-3 WEEKS WE'RE GOING TO LEARN ABOUT THE **WEAPON OF PRAISE**
- HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW THAT **YOUR PRAISE IS A WEAPON.**
 - IT HAS POWER TO **DISARM** YOUR OPPOSITION.
 - IT HAS POWER TO **SEND CONFUSION** TO YOUR ENEMY'S CAMP.
 - YOUR PRAISE IS A WEAPON!!!

1. **YOU CAN PRAISE YOUR WAY OUT OF FEAR AND OPPRESSION**

- THERE IS A STORY IN THE BIBLE **WHEN JEHOSEPHAT WAS FACED WITH A BATTLE.**
- BATTLE WITH **NOT ONE, BUT THREE NATIONS** - THE MOABITES, THE AMMONITES AND THE MEUNITES.
- ALL 3 OF THEM ARE UNITED IN ARMY, UNITED IN GOAL TO KILL ISRAELITES AND JEHOSEPHAT.
- AND THE NEWS REACHED JEHOSEPHAT THAT **THEY ARE ALREADY HALF WAY TOWARDS** JEHOSEPHAT.
 - WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN AN ARMY THAT IS NOT JUST ONE, BUT THREE ARE AGAINST YOU
 - WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN NEWS REACHED YOU THAT THEY ARE ALREADY HALF WAY TOWARDS YOU?

"Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the Lord for guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting."
2 Chronicles 20:3 NLT

- **"JEHOSEPHAT WAS TERRIFIED BY THIS NEWS!"**
 - **THE FIRST THING THAT THE ENEMY DOES IS ALWAYS TO SEND FEAR AND TERROR.**
 - AND IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL **THIS FEAR AND TERROR CAN CRIPPLE YOU**
 - WE ARE LIVING IN TIMES WHERE THE ENEMY CAN SEND FEAR AND ANXIETY AND TERROR IN JUST ONE CLICK OF A BUTTON.
 - WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME NEWS CAN SEND SPREAD FEAR DOWN YOUR SPINE LIKE THAT!?
 - WITHIN A WEEK, CORONA VIRUS NEWS CRIPPLED AUSTRALIAN SHARE MARKET LOWER THAN DURING GFC!
 - WITHIN A WEEK YOU CAN'T FIND TOILET PAPER THROUGH OUT AUSTRALIA. WHAT'S TOILET PAPER GOT TO DO WITH CORONA VIRUS.

- BUT INSTEAD OF BEING CRIPPLED BY THIS TERROR, **JEHOSHAPHAT CHOSE TO PRAISE HIS WAY OUT OF FEAR AND DEPRESSION.**
- THE SAME THING WITH US CHURCH.
 - **YOU TOO CAN PRAISE YOUR WAY OUT OF FEAR AND DEPRESSION!**
 - BUT A LOT OF US WE LET HOAX, WE LET FEAR, AND LIES DOMINATES OUR THOUGHTS!
 - INSTEAD OF WAKING UP WITH THE PROMISE OF GOD, WE LET HOAX FROM FACEBOOK AND WHATSAP GROUP.
 - INSTEAD OF DISCUSSING HIS PROMISE THAT HE WILL NEVER LET US DOWN, HE WILL ALWAYS PROTECT US.
 - WE LET LIES, DECEPTIONS NEWS DOMINATE.
 - **“WHAT YOU ALLOW TO DOMINATE YOUR THOUGHT, WILL EVENTUALLY DOMINATE YOUR LIFE.”**
 - BUT PASTOR, IT LOOKS SO REAL.
 - THAT’S WHY ITS CALLED FEAR!!!
 - **FEAR = FAKE EVIDENCE APPEARS REAL**
 - THE SAME PHOTO FROM THE SAME TIME, BUT FROM DIFFERENT ANGLE COULD GIVE YOU FALSE IMPRESSION!
 - IM NOT SAYING DON’T APPLY WISDOM ETC.
 - NOOOO, BUT THE ENEMY IS GOOD AT TWISTING, ENLARGING.
 - WITH ONE GOAL, ONCE FEAR GRIPS, POWER WENT OUT.
 - SO I WANT TO GIVE YOU A BREAKING NEWS TO YOU TODAY.
 - YOU HAVE A GOD THAT IS BIGGER GREATER THAN ANY VIRUS.
 - YOU HAVE A GOD THAT IS IN CONTROL.
 - YOU HAVE A GOD THAT SAYS EVEN WHEN 1,000 LIES ON MY LEFT AND 10,000 DIES ON MY RIGHT, I WILL KEEP STANDING!
 -
 - **CHURCH! WE’VE GOT ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN YOUR ARSENAL.**
 - **AND THAT WEAPON IS CALLED PRAISE!**
 - **AND WHEN PRESSURE COMES KNOCKING, PRAISE!**
 - **WHEN FEAR COMES KNOCKING, PRAISE!**
 - **WHEN DEPRESSION COMES KNOCKING, ANSWER THE DOOR WITH THE SHOUT OF PRAISE!**
 - **OH I WISH IM PREACHING TO SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS HOW TO PRAISE GOD IN THE MOMENT OF TROUBLE!**
 - THE MOMENT JEHOSHAPHAT PRAISE GOD
 - GOD SAID TO HIM

- “Do not be afraid! Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the Lord’s victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!”
2 Chronicles 20:15, 17 NLT
- When we praise and worship God we are **MAGNIFYING OUR GOD AND HIS POWER IN OUR LIFE**, instead of fear
- **CMON CHURCH, DON’T GIVE FEAR AND LIES AN INCH IN YOUR LIFE!**
 - FEAR DOESN’T COME FROM GOD!
 - THE POWER OF PRAISE WILL TRUMP THE POWER OF FEAR
- Isaiah 61:3 (TLB) “To all who mourn in Israel he will give: beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, **praise instead of heaviness.**
 - When praise goes up His presence comes down (and that is where joy is found)
- Psalm 22:3-5 (NKJV) “But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.
 - **Enthroned** – When we praise God he establishes His throne in our praise, His throne represents **His authority and dominion.**
 - Authority over sickness.
 - Dominion over defeat.
 - Our praise allows God to arise and all His enemies to be scattered

2. PRAISE WILL GIVE YOU VICTORY OVER YOUR BATTLE

- BUT HERE’S THE INTERESTING PART.

“After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: “Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!”
2 Chronicles 20:21 NLT

- JEHOSAPHAT ACTUALLY DID WHAT NO OTHER KINGS HAVE EVER DONE BEFORE.
- **HE PUT PRAISE AHEAD OF THEIR ARMY.**
- I FEEL IN MY HEART THAT GOD WANTS TO TEACH US TO **PUT PRAISE AHEAD OF YOUR ARMY.**
 - IM NOT SAYING DON’T PREPARE FOR YOUR BATTLE (EXAM, INTERVIEW)
 - JEHOSAPHAT PREPARED HIS TROOPS.

- BUT HE PUT PRAISE AHEAD OF HIS ARMY.
 - PUT PRAISE AHEAD OF YOUR SKILLS.
 - PUT PRAISE AHEAD OF YOUR PREPARATIONS.
 - PUT PRAISE AHEAD OF YOUR STUDY.
 - **DON'T PUT PRAISE AS YOUR LAST RESORT** (OH GOD, I SURRENDER MY EXAM INTO YOUR HANDS 2 MINS BEFORE THE EXAM).
 - JEHOSAPHAT UNDERSTOOD THAT PRAISE IS HIS GREATEST WEAPON!
 - HIS PRAISE IS STRONGER THAN HIS CHARIOTS.
 - HIS PRAISE IS STRONGER THAN HIS STRONGEST GENERALS.
- AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED
 - "At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start **fighting among themselves.**
 - So when the army of Judah arrived at the lookout point in the wilderness, all they saw were dead bodies lying on the ground as far as they could see. Not a single one of the enemy had escaped.
- MY STORY
 - ONE DAY I WAS DRIVING INTO THE OFFICE.
 - I FELT SOMETHING IS COMING.
 - ITS HEAVY.
 - I FELT SOMETHING BIG IS ABOUT TO HIT.
 - I PRAISE LIKE No. TOMORROW IN THE CAR TOWARDS THE OFFICE.
 - MANAGEMENT MEETING.
 - I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO HER, BUT THE CEO HAVE ALREADY PREPARED A LIST TO CORNER ME OUT.
 - AND SHE ALREADY GANG UP SOME OF THE KEY STAKE HOLDER OF THE MEETINGS.
 - AND SHE SAID 'OKAY ROY, THIS PRODUCT DOESNT MOVE, THE TRAFFIC HASN'T COME, YOU HAVE DONE THIS FOR 3 MONTHS, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT, IF THIS FAILS MAYBE WE NEED TO FIND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS.
 - BUT I CAME PRAYED UP.
 - I CAME IN PRAISED UP.
 - I HAVE PUT PRAISE AHEAD OF MY ARMY.
 - PEACE OF GOD COMES IN.
 - WISDOM OF GOD WALKED IN.
 - I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I ANSWERED IT, BUT I SOUNDED SOOOO DEEP AND FULL OF WISDOM.
 - WITHIN 12 MINS AND 30 SECONDS.
 - THE CEO SAID 'WHAT ROY SAID IS EXACTLY RIGHT, WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR STRATEGY TOTALLY'
 - AND THEY STARTED TO FIGHT AMONGST THEMSELVES.
 - I WENT HOME IN VICTORY!
- WHEN YOU PUT PRAISE AHEAD OF YOUR ARMY, YOU PUT THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE TO SUSTAIN YOU, TO FIGHT FOR YOU, WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS TO WATCH!

- MAYBE YOU'VE TRIED YOUR WAYS FOR SO LONG, **ITS TIME TO GIVE PRAISE A GO!**
 - PRAISE HIM AHEAD OF YOUR SKILLS.
 - PRAISE HIM AHEAD OF YOUR OWN STRENGTH.
 - PRAISE HIM AHEAD OF YOUR OWN WISDOM.
- I WISH SOMEBODY CAN PRAISE GOD FOR 10 SECONDS!
- FIVE....
- FOUR....

3. YOU CAN PRAISE YOUR WAY INTO PROSPERITY

- "At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start **fighting among themselves.**
- So when the army of Judah arrived at the lookout point in the wilderness, all they saw were dead bodies lying on the ground as far as they could see. Not a single one of the enemy had escaped.
- **King Jehoshaphat and his men went out to gather the plunder.**
 - **THE VERY THING THAT GOT SENT TO KILL THEM, BECOME THEIR BLESSINGS.**
 - GOD TURNED THEIR ENEMIES TO BECOME THEIR "UBER DRIVER" TO DELIVER THEIR BLESSING.
- They found vast amounts of equipment, clothing, and other valuables—**more than they could carry.** There was so much plunder that it took them **three days just to collect it all!**
2 Chronicles 20:22-26 NLT
- I WANT TO DECREE AND DECLARE TO YOU:
 - THE MOMENT YOU PUT PRAISE AHEAD OF YOUR ARMY.
 - GOD WILL TURN YOUR ENEMY **TO BE COURIER OF BLESSING.**
 - BLESSING SO MUCH TO PLUNDER THAT IT WILL TAKE YOU 3 DAYS JUST TO COLLECT!
- Psalm 42:5-6 (NLT) " Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **PRAISE IS YOUR WEAPON!!**
 - You can praise your way out of FEAR and OPPRESSION.
 - Praise can give you VICTORY OVER YOUR BATTLES.
 - You can praise your way into PROSPERITY and BLESSING.
- **WHAT FEAR AND OPPRESSION TRYING TO SNEAK INTO YOUR LIFE LATELY?**
- **WHAT BREAKTHROUGH/PROSPERITY/BLESSING THAT YOU ARE BELIEVING GOD FOR?**

Note to Coaches:

Prepare a strong & intentional story in your life, especially on the 2nd question (eg. You're believing for a new job, your family to get saved, business opportunity, healing etc.)

- Coach once they opened their life..... thank them for opening their life/story to others. Transparency is the first step of restorations.
- Then Encourage them to USE PRAISE AS THEIR WEAPON THE NEXT 30 DAYS!!
- And Believe that you will hear praise reports in the next 30 days in their life.
- Love them.