

# ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

## SECTION 5 – Intimacy With God

### Lesson 17 - Power of High Praise

**Psalms 149:6** *Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,*

*And a two-edged sword in their hand,*

*7 To execute vengeance on the nations,*

*And punishments on the peoples;*

*8 To bind their kings with chains,*

*And their nobles with fetters of iron;*

*9 To execute on them the written judgment—*

*This honor have all His saints.*

*Praise the LORD!*

Let the high praises of God be in our mouths. There are things that we do in the natural, that transcends into the spirit realm, and have power in the spirit realm. And there is a dimension and a type of praise called high praise.

There's a lot of misunderstanding about praise and worship in the body of Christ. People say that praise is the fast songs or the songs about God, and worship is the slow songs and the songs to God. It couldn't be further from the truth. The word worship in the Old Testament literally means to be laid prostrate before God. But there are many words for praise: singing, jumping, shouting, dancing, extending your hands, lifting up holy hands, being still and quiet.

Praise is worship. Worship is an attitude of the heart. Worship is a condition of humility and surrender before God.

*Praise is worship physically expressed.*

God begins to deal with a dimension, a power and a type of praise that goes into a whole other arena; a type of praise that He calls high praise that has supernatural power to destroy supernatural strongholds.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

We are engaged in spiritual warfare, and God has given us supernatural weapons. God has given us many weapons to destroy the strongholds of the enemy. And one of the greatest weapons God has ever given us is the weapon of high praise.

# ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

## SECTION 5 – Lesson 17

When I am talking about high praise, I'm not talking about just singing. And I'm not even talking about just singing loudly. But there is a place where your praise goes into such a dimension that you actually begin to lose sight of where you are at. You're no longer just limited to this natural realm. You will lose sense of time, you will lose sense of location because somehow you begin to engage into a spiritual dimension. Many have never experienced this. Some just a little bit. Very few do it often. But you move to a dimension where you literally begin to realize that you are transcending the natural realm into a heavenly realm. You become so focused in worship, so focused in praise, and so intense that every fiber of your being is engaged in the exaltation and magnification of God Almighty. You lose sense of the natural realm and you find yourself standing in the heavenly realm.

This is not something you casually get to. This is not something you stumble across. This is not something you just arrive at haphazardly. In the dimension of what I'm talking about you are not even focused on the people leading worship. You don't even care who the worship leader is. You tap into a heavenly realm, a spirit realm.

**Psalms 149:6** *let the high praises of God be in their mouths and a two-edged sword in their hand.*

**What is the two-edged sword?** (Hebrews 4:12)

[We know that is the Word of God; for the Bible says the Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword.](#)

The hand speaks of their work, of their power. The hand speaks of the energy that they're focusing on and using. So with the high praises of God in their mouth and the power of the Word with them and behind them and infused in what they are singing and praising and celebrating before God, they come into a dimension to execute vengeance on the nations.

We are spending so much time trying to use Christian entertainment to not only entertain the church, but also to appeal to the world. We'll use their music and their sounds and their stuff and then we dress like them, act like them, and sound like them in order to appeal to them; to bring to them a positive Christian message.

But God says there's a dimension of high praise that doesn't bring a "positive" Christian message in the sense of what they're talking about. It actually executes vengeance and brings judgment. This level of high praise brings a manifestation of the presence of God that is so strong and so intense that it exposes sin. It exposes weakness.

We have not entered into what I believe is true worship and true praise until in the midst of that atmosphere sin becomes exposed. When ungodly people, whether they claim to be Christians or not, can walk into our worship services and walk back out and never be convicted of their sin,

## ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

### SECTION 5 – Lesson 17

and never be confronted, you didn't feel much of the presence of God. When the presence of God really comes there is an exposure of sin. When Isaiah saw the Lord he fell on his face and cried out, "Woe unto me, I am undone!" (Isaiah 6:5)

*When the true manifested presence of God comes, it brings judgment to sin.*

**Psalm 149:7-8** *To execute vengeance on the nations,*

*And punishments on the peoples;*

*8 To bind their kings with chains,*

*And their nobles with fetters of iron;*

He is dealing with the spirit realm here, because it is talking about the high praises of God.

**Who are the kings and the nobles of the heathen and of the nations?**

*It is demonic principalities and powers.*

When the high praises of God come forth it will execute vengeance upon the nations and judgment upon the peoples. It will literally bind up demon spirits. It will literally bind up the power of the enemy.

That's why the devil wants to bring every substitute he can for the true high praises of God. He has no problem bringing you Christian entertainment. He doesn't have any problem with us doing a Christian "sing-along". But he is terrified that you will tap into this dimension of the true high praises of God, because it will begin to bind up the power and the forces of darkness and wickedness.

**Psalms 22:3 KJV** *But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.*

**What does it mean that God inhabits the praises of His People?**

*The word inhabit literally means that God is enthroned in their midst. He is established as king. He is established as Almighty God. He is established as Lord, as Master, as Ruler.*

He inhabits the praises of His people. It doesn't mean He just comes in and blesses you. That is not what that word inhabit means. It means to become established as Almighty God.

When we begin to enter into a deeper level of praise and a deeper level of worship, into the high praises of God, the presence of God comes in an authoritative manner.

# ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

## SECTION 5 – Lesson 17

**Psalms 68:1-2** *Let God arise,*

*Let His enemies be scattered;*

*Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.*

*2 As smoke is driven away,*

*So drive them away;*

*As wax melts before the fire,*

*So let the wicked perish at the presence of God.*

When you lift up high praises, then supernatural warfare begins to take place. When the supernatural praises of God are lifted up, God comes down enthroned and established as Almighty God in our midst. He becomes King and Lord in our midst. He begins to arise, and as God arises His enemies are scattered.

In a lot of our services we sing for fifteen minutes, or twenty minutes of songs, asking God to come, and as soon as He shows up we ignore Him and go to announcements. That's not establishing God as Almighty God. He is talking about a people that will enter into a new dimension of praise and worship. They are going to forget about the ridiculous programs and the limited timeframes.

We have to magnify the name of the Lord God. Worship Him and exalt Him and then He, in one moment, can speak a Word that is greater than a thousand sermons. We cannot be married to our little formulas that require us to do things a certain way. What we have to do is honor Him and praise Him and come before Him with the high praises that focus that intensity on Him.

It's not a set up so you can preach. The praise and worship is to magnify God and exalt God, and then when He is satisfied He will turn back to us and minister unto us through His Word and by His spirit. It's not a secondary thing. It is the primary thing.

We begin to get before God. We begin to magnify Him. We lift up the name of God. We go past the point of just getting a little blessing. The presence of God comes down, is enthroned and established in our midst. And some of you know what I am talking about. You have been in meetings where it is like God is here and you don't even want to breathe wrong. That's when something begins to happen.

**Hebrews 2:11** *For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying:*

*“ I will declare Your name to My brethren;*

*In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”*

**What does Jesus do as God is enthroned in our midst through high praise?**

[Jesus shows up on the scene. And then Jesus declares the name of the Father to His brethren.](#)

# ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

## SECTION 5 – Lesson 17

Jesus is not ashamed to call us brethren. We are joint heirs with Christ Jesus. As we just read, God inhabits the praises of His people. We begin to worship God, we begin to magnify God, we begin to transcend the limitations, we forget about everybody else, we forget about our problems, we forget about our struggles, and we just begin to go hard after God. God becomes enthroned in our midst.

High praise is spiritual warfare. Whenever Jesus speaks, He speaks with perfect faith so that what He speaks will come to pass. He begins to declare the names of God to you. So in the midst of that kind of intensive worship, in the midst of that kind of intensive praise, Jesus will walk up to a person that's sick and say, "Jehovah Rophe, the Lord your healer". And then right there, the demonic oppression of sickness leaves their body and divine health comes into that body. In the midst of the high praises of God, Jesus spoke the name of God and what He speaks comes to pass.

When the Father becomes enthroned as Almighty God Jesus shows up on the scene and goes around the congregation and begins to declare the name of God. And when He does, the strongholds of the enemy begin to be destroyed. The strongholds of the enemy break. He begins to declare the names of God. He says, "Jehovah Tsidkenui, He's the Lord of righteousness", and all of the sudden the strongholds of sin on your life begin to crumble in that magnified presence of God. He begins to say, "Jehovah M'kaddahi", which is the Lord your sanctifier, and purity and sanctification take place. He says, "Jehovah Jireh" and all of the sudden He becomes your divine provider.

Throughout the Old Testament we see examples of this in story after story. When the armies of Israel came up against Jericho they marched around seven times and then blew the trumpet, let out a shout of praise, and the walls came tumbling down. When Moab and Mount Seir in 2 Chronicles Chapter 20 came up against Israel, Jehoshaphat went to prayer and God said, "The battle is not yours, it's Mine." What did Jehoshaphat do? Did he pick out his strongest warriors? Did he pick out his most skilled military men? He sent out the worshippers. He sent out the praisers. And as they began to magnify the name of God, God began to arrive, the enemies were shattered, confusion hit the ranks of the enemy, and they started to kill one another.

### **What happens to the enemies of God in the midst of high praise?**

[In the midst of the high praises of God, strongholds of the enemies are destroyed.](#)

When Jesus shows up He begins to declare the names of God. Then Jesus, after he starts declaring the names of God, joins in and begins to praise God with us. He begins to praise the Father with us. I've been in a few services where all of the sudden you knew that heaven joined in with you in the worship of Almighty God. And then, as it continues to rise, as we continue to press in we don't just stop there.

## ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

### SECTION 5 – Lesson 17

**Zephaniah 3:17** *The LORD your God in your midst,*

*The Mighty One, will save;*

*He will rejoice over you with gladness,*

*He will quiet you with His love,*

*He will rejoice over you with singing.*

God inhabits the praises of His people. When we are in the level of intensity of high praises, then God comes in incredible strength in our midst.

There is nothing that will get people saved faster than the strong manifested, mighty presence of Almighty God. The Bible says, “Let God arise and His enemies be scattered.” Jesus said, “If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto Me”. (John 12:32) People are going to start coming in to churches just to get saved. They will walk in the sanctuary and fall on their knees and cry out. They won’t even know why they are crying out. They will just cry out and say, “God have mercy”. The conviction will hit their hearts because of the intensity of the manifested presence of God. The Lord thy God in the midst of it will save; the Mighty One will save.

The Bible says He will rejoice over you with gladness. That word gladness means bliss and glee. It means God will just get beside Himself. God will rejoice over you. Then He will rest in His love. Then as we continue to press in He, the Father, will rejoice over you with singing. That word rejoice means to leap and spin under violent emotion.

God said that if you will press in deep enough into a dimension of high praise, it will so touch His heart that He will actually get up off the throne and He will begin to sing and dance over you. Sing and dance over us!

We have to press in to the high praises of God because when the high praises of God come out of our mouths and a two-edged sword in our hand, something begins to take place. God is established as Almighty God in our midst. Jesus comes on the scene, begins to declare the names of God, the strongholds of the enemy come tumbling down, God rises up as the Mighty One, He begins to save, and then He becomes filled with bliss and glee and He rests in His love, and finally the Father can’t help it and begins to sing and dance over us. That is what God calls a worship service.

You may have never experienced that. Get in to worship and don’t stop. Press in, forget about everything, and press in until you cross from the natural realm into the heavenly realm, until you begin to experience the authoritative, manifested presence of God. God will show up and Jesus will declare the names of God. He will begin to sanctify, He will begin to deliver, He will begin to save, He will begin to transform, He will arise and our enemies will be scattered; the enemies on the outside of us and the enemies on the inside of us. Pressed in to the power of high praise.

## ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

### SECTION 5 – Lesson 17

#### **For Further Study:**

**2 Chronicles 20:22** *Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.*

**Acts 16:25-26** *But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.*