

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

DESTROYING THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

RLJ-1245

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PART 6: THE WEAPON OF CHOICE

JOY IS VERY IMPORTANT

*“And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**” (Nehemiah 8:9-10)*

The joy of the Lord can be likened to the operating system on a computer. The computer is non-functional if it does not have an operating system. Likewise, if the joy of the Lord is missing in your life, you will become non-functional and move into a stage of just existing. **Psalm 6:1-10**

The joy of the Lord is the first thing Satan will attack in your life. If he is successful in removing your joy, there is no protection left for the rest of your emotions. **Proverbs 15:13; 17:22**

The joy of the Lord can be taken away through sin. **Psalm 32:1-5; 51:1-12**

The joy of the Lord can be taken away by an attack from a spouse, child, relative, friend or an unknown person. **Psalm 22:1-21**

PRAISE IS OUR OFFENSIVE WEAPON

Satan cannot stand it when people praise the Lord. He hates it and that is why he attacked Job. **Job 1:8-11; 2:3-5**

What is praise? Praise is birthed out of faith in God, believing that in the midst of troubles, God is going to rescue and bring us into victory. **Psalm 22:22-31; 51:15-19**

Praise is not an emotion – it is a choice! A man might say, “I do not feel good, things are going bad, nothing is working out but I am going to praise the Lord!”

King Jehoshaphat called for a time of prayer and fasting when he received bad news. **2 Chronicles 20:1-4**

Then Jehoshaphat publicly prayed as he stood with the people around him and they were all in despair. **verses 5-13**



God heard the prayer and responded through His prophet of that time. **verses 14-17**

Nothing had changed in the physical world as the enemy was still marching on Jerusalem and the people of Judah were still as weak as before the prayer started. But in the spirit world there had been a great change, fear had been replaced with faith and grief had been replaced by joy! **verses 18-19**

King Jehoshaphat and the people had to face the enemy. We always have to face the enemy and stare him down. **But faith declared that praise was the answer.**

Instead of sending battle hardened soldiers to meet the enemy, the singers were sent out in front of the army and praises to God began to echo. **verses 20-21**

Praise always moves the hand of God, and instead of having to fight the enemy, God took them down supernaturally. **verses 22-24**

PRAISE KNOWS NO CIRCUMSTANCES

Paul and Silas had to make a choice when they were brutally beaten, savagely treated and thrown into a dark prison where their hands and feet were shackled! **They chose to praise the Lord as blood was dripping from their backs and rats were scurrying around trying to bite them.**

Praise is not an emotion but a choice of our free will. Acts 16:23-25

Praise always moves the hand of God. **verses 26-34**

PRAISE DRIVES AWAY ALL FEAR

Why was the apostolic church so powerful? Praise became a way of life for them. **Acts 4:18-33**

SATAN CANNOT PENETRATE PRAISE

Since praise is a choice, we should will it all the time knowing that circumstances mean nothing regardless of how bad it gets. **1 Peter 2:11-20**

Praise is the Christian lifestyle. **Philippians 4:4-8**

Are you a praiser or a complainer?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Have you made plans on how to finish your life or are you just drifting?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?