

"The Miraculous Power of Praise"

Pastor Donna Shelton

Sunday, June 21, 2009

- Whenever you have a trial that you are going through, you always anticipate and trust God that He will take you through it and it will be over quickly, but it doesn't always happen that way.
- We have to live in this world and we have to go through hard times, whether we are Christian or not.
- **Matthew 5:45 (NKJV)** " . . . for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."
- There are bad things that happen in life, but, as with Christians, we know Jesus is the only one that can save you.
- Rain falls on the just and the unjust, but God is my umbrella.
- Satan wants to get you in bondage and destroy you, or to burden you so much he rules you.
- In June of 2000, Pastor Donna was in the midst of a difficult situation dealing with Pastor Rick's illness and his dad's cancer coming back.
- Pastor Donna cried out go God, "I don't know what to do; we've done everything we know to do." God told her to do 3 things: 1) Breathe in (In the Bible, breathe is 'Numa' - the Holy Spirit), 2) Push (praying and taking authority); 3) Rest (just praising God).
- Resting is praising. Praising relaxes you; something about it releases your situation. Praise is an unsung hero in your life, a secret weapon.
- When you speak the Word in a situation, when you have done all you could, there is one thing left . . . praise! Thank Him and praise Him.
- We tend to think that if we start praising and thanking Him it will work as a miracle cure to get what we need/want.
- Sometimes we thank God but we don't thank Him the right way, and it doesn't release His power.
- Sometimes He answers immediately and sometimes He doesn't. Sometimes He has something else in mind.
- Christians and non-Christians both struggle and have problems. When you become a child of God, it doesn't immediately exclude you from hard times and trials.
- **John 16:33 (NKJV)** "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
- Jesus said didn't say I've overcome trials and tribulations, but He has overcome the world that gives the trials.
- **Psalms 50:23 (NKJV)** "Whoever offers *praise *glorifies Me; And to him who orders (puts) his conduct aright, I will show the *salvation of God."
- Praise = worship with extended hands.
- Glorifies = to give weight to.
- Salvation = liberty, deliverance, prosperity
- Praise is to say good things about, boast, and sing about.
- **Psalms 34:1-2 (NKJV)** "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear of it and be glad."
- **Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)** "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."
- We walk around carrying heavy loads, but the scripture says whoever offers praise puts the weight on Him.
- Praising God puts Him into the driver's seat of any situation; it activates your faith and trust in Him.
- Many times we take the weight of the Holy Spirit on our shoulders, but when you offer praise to God, then we take it and put it on His shoulders. We get our hands off of it and we don't operate on the works of the flesh. God expects us to do what we can, but trust Him for it. Put legs to your prayers.
- When you've done all you can do, raise your hands and keep yourself submitted to Him by praising and thanking Him. You don't take His responsibility.
- Many times His provision doesn't come the way/time/form we expect.

- The first seven years of this church it grew with no major difficulties. Then the Jimmy Swaggert and Jim Bakker scandals happened. Even though it had nothing to do with this church, the ripple effect made the church's finances drop. When Pastor Rick was worshipping at the new unfinished church building, God told him for the next six weeks to take the Tuesday night offerings and research six different people groups in the world, and give those offerings to them. In the financial crisis the church was in it would seem to be suicide. But when you're walking with God and He's so much bigger and you trust him and put the weight on Him, you have to be ready to obey what He tells you.
- "If one hears the voice of God, it should mean obedience, and if one obeys, one will hear." - Hannah Hunard
- One reason why people don't get their prayers answered is because when God asks them to do something that doesn't make sense to them, they disregard Him. . . and then don't receive their miracle!
- There's a testing place of trusting God for more than what you see. Many times people stay in the same place because they never get past the first test.
- **Romans 5:3 (AMP)** *"Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance."*
- When we are in trouble, we should give. The way we keep from becoming 'all about me' is we get 'all about God and His word'.
- God has a bigger plan for your life than just what you're going through right now.
- Your difficult 'place' will pass when you get to the point you believe God is good and has a good plan for you, and praise Him in the midst of every trial and every hard pain. God waits until you can have self-control and a happy heart.
- You cannot have self-control when you're trying to do it all by yourself. You cannot have a happy heart when you're not extending your hands towards Heaven and saying, "It's all about you, God."
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)** *"in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*
- Praise changes the atmosphere with life, light and grace, and banishes the darkness, heaviness and depression. Praise creates havoc in the realm of the spiritual enemies of God, binding demonic rulers of darkness, causing them to be confused and destroy themselves.
- Do you cry out to God only when you're in a crisis?
- You acknowledge God by giving thanks in all situations, extending your hands, and letting go of what you're holding so tightly to. This glorifies God and you put the weight of the situation on Him.
- Pastor Donna's heart cries is that her life be one continuous act of worship, and that her life and the way she lives can be a highway to show people how to come to Christ and live victoriously, to bring them hope and help in the most desperate situations.
- Whenever you praise God, He 'shows up and shows off'! He shows Himself where He is welcome!
- Some Christians can almost continually sense the Lord's presence, yet those who are negative, unbelieving, and complaining can live their whole life without feeling God near them.
- You might say that you believe in the Word of God, but you will never know if you really believe until you're tested!
- You cannot offer praise and carry the burden at the same time!
- When you go through tests, you get a testimony!
- You can't really praise God without being thankful for the thing you're praising Him for.
- There is power in the corporate praise and worship of God. When an entire congregation makes a corporate sacrifice of praise, focusing on the majesty and power of the Almighty God, and their hearts are joined together in unity uplifting the name of Jesus, this brings a mighty release of faith, which ushers in the manifest presence of God, bringing about signs and wonders, healings, deliverance from every sort of bondage and affliction, and refreshment and renewal.
- Praise God for your difficult situations. When they come you can accept them as part of God's perfect plan for your life!
- Recommended books to read: "The Power in Praise," and "Prison to Praise," by Merlin Carothers.

Highway to Heaven

*If you listen to the singing of my praise,
If upon my raptured face you chance to gaze,
These are but a tiny part of the love that's in my heart.
You will find a highway there paved with singing, praise and prayer
Leading straight to heaven's throne and Jesus' face.*

*Yet, this highway wasn't always paved with praise.
In the beginning, tears were all that I could rise.
I have learned through trials great that these are just a starting gate
For with praise I've learned to fight even in the darkest night.
The Lord has seen the end and He will lead me there to Him.
Follow me; I'll lead you to His saving grace.*

Donna Shelton

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