

BECOMING A PRAISEWARRIOR

BECAUSE EVERY PRAYER
SHOULD END IN PRAISE



ADAM HOUGE

Becoming a Praise Warrior Because Every Prayer Should End In Praise™

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Introduction

Every believer must dedicate himself or herself to a life of praise for the Lord. No matter the circumstances of life, we must learn to glorify God in everything. Doesn't He deserve this? Take the time to Honor Him today by worshipping Him for His worthiness. Consider that God will always save you, always love you, and always cherish you. Take this to heart and be moved by His love to have a heart of faith. God says and does all things for you through love. There isn't a single action to which He commits that isn't founded on His love for you.

So if life is good, praise Him for it in thanksgiving! But if life has become difficult, praise Him in faith, knowing that He will work it all together for good because He loves you. Even if you've lost a loved one, God has the power to lift your heart up again. It's not that anything good comes from losing a loved one but that God has the authority and ability to bless you through your brokenness.

So what should real, heartfelt worship look like? True worship isn't merely what you say with your words but the decisions you make to honor God. Let your worship be with action and not only in hymns. Lead a life that worships God in what you do, how you conduct yourself, and the words you say. Pray for others and be a true prayer warrior by also setting the example of God's love. Commit to a true life of praise by choosing to become the image of God's love.

Chapter One

Praying in Reverse

God deserves our praise. Given all that He does and has done, we ought to glorify Him with a thankful heart. We worship Him because of His worth-ship.

Look at your life. What is God doing for you right now? Can you see it? Pray for open eyes, that you may be encouraged by all He does to love you. When you understand how loved you are, it's hard not to praise Him.

Have you been praising Him as you ought to lately? Have you been glorifying Him through the good and the bad? Your circumstances shouldn't dictate how you respond to His love. When you allow your circumstances to influence whether or not you worship, your love becomes conditional.

Worship is really just a grateful love song for all the Lord is, does, and has done. But we love Him because He first loved us. As it is written,

“We love Him because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

Knowing this, reflect on all the ways the Lord has loved you, not only at Calvary but also in how He is expressing His love to you in your life right now. If you're going through a trial and you take the time to reflect on His love and how He is expressing it through your circumstances, you will be encouraged and strengthened to press on. Always remember to do this, that He may encourage you.

God creates all things good. Jesus has promised to take the bad things and make them new and good. Remember that it is written,

“Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’” Revelation 21:5

Let Him create newness in your life daily as you seek Him. When you open your eyes to His work, it raises your heart up to worship Him. Keep a steady heart of faith at all times, especially when you pray.

Many Christians end their prayers with “amen,” “in Jesus' name,” or “I believe.” But you should begin your prayers with the end in mind—and that end is faith. Start every prayer with faith, believing that God's love will persuade Him to answer you according to your need.

This doesn't mean that God will always answer us in the manner we expect or within our timeframe. But if we pray from the heart of Christ and not merely from our own heart, we will experience a dramatic difference in our prayer life

So learn to pray through the Spirit. This is done by becoming more attentive to His voice. When you understand how the Spirit is communicating to your heart and listen to Him while you pray, then you will be praying in the Spirit and will pray the messages He lays on your heart.

Now, some believers stumble with understanding how to apply faith properly in prayer. It is not that they feel they stumble but that they don't understand how to pray in faith properly and do not realize it. Therefore, we must examine what true faith is. From where does faith come? What do we read?

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17

Every time God opens His mouth, we are required to have the proper response of faith. Faith in both His written word and His oral word, which is communicated to you through His Holy Spirit, must be perfect.

So if you or someone else is going through a trial, for example, you must ask yourself what God is saying to you through the circumstance. Learn to sit quietly with the Lord so that you can drown out the noises of life around you to hear the Lord more clearly in the peace of His presence. As we meditate on His presence and focus more intently on the words He communicates, we can grow to hear His voice more effectively.

Ultimately, it is His will that we are seeking to understand. Whether in trials of life or in a peaceful season of life, we are commanded to live according to the will of God and not the dictates of our own heart. One example of how some believers live according to the dictates of their heart without realizing it is their reliance on their own powers of interpretation. They reserve the right to form opinions regarding the will of God: “I think God meant this in the Bible” or “I think God is telling me to do this or that, so I will do it.”

Rather than giving God the opportunity to confirm His will, they step out in faith. However, their faith is not in the words of God but in their own personal interpretation of His will. The end result? A misstep. And multiple missteps always end in disaster. In such a situation, God will allow regrettable circumstances to befall us for the purpose of repentance. Not that He tries to hurt us, but rather He lovingly disciplines us to help us make proper course

corrections in following Him. That way, we may learn to attune our hearts to His and obey His will rather than our own.

In order to lead a true life of worship, one must learn total surrender to the will of God. This can be difficult when our own logic is screaming at us to do something different from the direction God is telling us to take.

It has become a habit, especially in the American church, to believe that God always leads us to paths of peace. While such believers may not think this way consciously, inwardly they question themselves as to whether they have made the right decisions after calamity befalls them. But consider that Jesus followed the Father to the cross. Consider that Paul followed the Lord having had a mighty vision to go to Macedonia. Where did he end up? In prison. Consider also how Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the words of God only to be stoned.

Following God's leading doesn't always mean we will have peace. God hasn't promised us peace in this life but, rather, turmoil. As Jesus said,

"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."
John 16:33

Our peace is in Christ, and the more we abide in Him and meditate on His presence, the more peace we will have. Paul, for example, had peace on a raging sea and gave comfort to the sailors, who were so terrified they wouldn't even eat. By continuously abiding in the Spirit, we likewise can be strengthened to overcome all situations and glorify God in every circumstance.

Who would you rather be: the sailor who reeled in fear because of the outward circumstances or Paul, whose peace through faith became an encouragement to the others? Choose faith and watch God transform your life through it! Begin your prayers with faith. Listen intently to the Spirit, that you can have proper faith in His words. If you can't hear God, then rest your hope on the Scriptures. God has promised to love you and deliver you from every form of evil. If you suffer in a trial and can't hear God through the noise of the storm, rest your hope in His promises as laid out in the Scripture. He will work it together for good, so let your prayers reflect that fact through faith. Then praise Him for His faithfulness after your prayers, believing that, as He has promised, He will do for you.

So take His promises to heart in order to grow in His word. Open the Scriptures

and study them diligently. Be faithful to sharpen your sword constantly. Life is a battle, and to win the battle, your sword must be sharp. Learn to wield it properly by growing in your understanding of His doctrine—not as other men interpret it, but as the Holy Spirit communicates it to you.

Be attentive to His voice while you read, and write down everything He says to you. But write only His words and not your own personal thoughts. By so doing, you will train yourself to discern God's voice over your own heart. His voice will become exceedingly clear, and this will carry over into every other facet of life.

Remember that all praise begins with faith and that all faith begins with understanding God's word. In order to lead a life of worship, first you must understand the principles God wants you to apply. So take it to heart to grow not only in your Bible but also in understanding His voice. Pursue His life and live according to it; seek His truth and live by it. God rejoices in those who walk in the truth of His doctrine. As it is written,

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” 3 John 1:4

But how do we find this truth? Through the Holy Spirit, no doubt. As it is also written,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...” John 16:13

By listening more attentively to the Spirit, you will understand the truth of God and the will of God with greater clarity. Thus, it is necessary to become more attentive to His voice in order to lead a life that glorifies Him.

Then, as you increase in awareness of His voice, you will pray naturally in the Spirit. As you pray, begin with faith and end with praise. Praise Him in faith that He will work your situations all together for good. Even if you don't know how He'll do it, praise Him anyway. We don't need to know what God will do to know that God will make it all work out in the end. Faith isn't faith if we can see the end God intends. True faith is blind. So embrace the unknown! If you can't see your way out, grasp the hand of God and let Him lead you. He is faithful and will save you! When you sit in darkness, Jesus will be a light to you. Remember this and keep the faith, Beloved!

If you pray for another person, praise the Lord for how He will be glorified in that person's life. If the person for whom you're praying is struggling in a situation, whether in sin or in trials, remember to portray the example of God's

love and encourage him or her. If the person is sinning, exhort him or her lovingly so that the person can get out of the pit. If he or she is struggling with a trial, encourage the person and lift his or her heart up again. If the person is struggling with need, then be the one who fills that need. Be willing to be used as the tool of God to love with a sincere heart. Ask yourself, "If Jesus were here right now, what would He do to help this person in his or her situation?" You know that He would alleviate the person's suffering and fill his or her need. So go and do likewise.

The perfect idea would be to ask God in prayer, with an open heart, what you can do for the other person. Then let Jesus answer for Himself what He would do and what you should do. Is He not your master? Obey His voice, therefore, and walk in love toward Him. If you love the Lord, you will also love His children. Even as it is written,

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" 1 John 4:20

"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him." 1 John 3:16–19

"Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world." 1 John 4:17

Love your brother, that you may have boldness in the Day of Judgment. Be swift to obey the Lord, and seek His will regarding the needs of others so that they also may praise God with you. Lift up their hearts through the love of God, being an example of His love in all your conduct. Set their hearts on fire through kindness, that even as you rejoice in the Lord, they also may praise Him because they have been set free from their burdens.

Wouldn't real and honest love compel you to show sincere kindness to your brothers in Christ? Wouldn't real and perfect love compel you to fill their needs? Be faithful to love them even as Jesus would do. Even as it is written,

"And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful." Titus 3:14

Chapter Two

Living the Life of a Praise Warrior

It is necessary for every believer to lead a life that glorifies the Lord. Let us worship Him not only in tongue but also in deed and in truth by walking in the full love of God. As we said before, worship Him not only in hymns but in all your conduct as well, being the example of God's love in all you do.

But how can you rightly apply the love of God without direction from His Spirit? Those who are continually led by the Spirit enjoy an overflow of His presence. By surrendering to the Spirit's guidance and being sensitive to His voice, you will feel His presence with you on a continual basis. As you pay attention to His heart, His praise will bubble up from your heart naturally. Like a spring bubbling over into a brook, His worship will flow naturally and continually from your heart to your lips and hands.

But first we must surrender to His will, that we can conform our hearts to His heart. We must desire to grow in Him in order to draw nearer to Him. Consider that God is infinite and that we are commanded to be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect. Seeing, then, that we are not perfect, there should be no end to our needs for growth. If we love the Lord, we will desire to grow in our relationship with Him.

Every believer must press forward and grow in the Lord. Love is proven by action and not mere words. Let your love for Him be proven by how you approach Him. Do not merely praise Him with words but honor Him by growing closer to Him always.

Grow in the Spirit and draw nearer to Him. Be faithful to step away from the distractions in life and have a time of devotion to reflect on the Spirit's presence and voice. This will help you to recharge in the Spirit, that you can pay attention to His presence and voice throughout the day.

By paying attention to His presence, you will find it easier to hear His voice and, hence, to know His will. But that we are called to reflect on the Lord is evident. As it is written,

“When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.”
Psalm 63:6

And also,

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” Psalm 91:1

But that we are called to continually communicate with Him and reflect on Him through prayer is evident. As we also read,

“...pray without ceasing...” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving...” Colossians 4:2

Be faithful to pray continuously. It is difficult to practice at first due to distractions; however, as you train your mind to be at peace in the Spirit while ignoring those distractions, prayer becomes much easier. Remember also that it is written,

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

If God calls you to do something, you can be certain that He will strengthen you to accomplish it. So have faith as you pray, and God will help you to overcome the distractions as you learn to keep mental peace in the Spirit.

Take the time to grow in His word also and to meditate on the Scriptures. Understanding a relationship with the Spirit begins with understanding the word of God. Establish yourself on a steady and firm foundation of biblical study. Know your Bible, and you’ll understand the Lord better.

As we mentioned in the previous chapter, pay attention to the Holy Spirit’s voice as you read. I cannot emphasize this enough: You must listen with an earnest heart. God, not man, is your teacher. So be careful not to seek someone else’s interpretation of the Scripture but the Lord’s interpretation. Who wrote the Bible? Who understands the word of God better than God? Who reveals the deep and hidden mysteries of the Scriptures? The Holy Spirit, no doubt. So seek to be taught by God, not by men. As the Scriptures say,

“It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.” John 6:45

While we must be taught by the Lord, God does use men as pastors to guide the sheep. Such men are attentive to the Spirit of God and speak the words of God; therefore, they must be respected. I am by no means speaking against the God-given establishment of the eldership of church but, rather, reminding you Who teaches you through them—the Lord. So, continuing in that mindset, be mindful

of God's words spoken through your elders. If you hear and feel the Spirit of God speaking through any preacher or pastor, you are commanded by God to respect him for your own salvation. These elders teach you how to draw nearer to the Lord as the Holy Spirit guides them.

But every person should understand the heart and voice of God, as a pastor does, for purposes of his or her own intimate relationship with Him. As the Scriptures recount,

“Then Moses said to him, ‘Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!’” Numbers 11:29

It is necessary for every Christian to understand the voice of God, that he or she may be obedient to Him. God commands us to obey His voice, and anything less is sin. If we can't understand His voice, we cannot be taught by Him. We must be attentive to His Spirit and the lesson at hand. God is teaching us something in every season of life, and the Bible is our course book.

He knows what He wrote and understands His doctrine better than anyone else does. So if there is anything you don't understand in the Scriptures, begin with prayer, asking the Lord to teach you through His Spirit. If you are sensitive to His voice, it will be easy to discern whether God is speaking and what He is saying. Then, by living in accordance with His word, both as written in the Scriptures and as spoken orally through the Spirit, you will be walking by proper faith. For faith comes by His word as we mentioned previously.

When training yourself to be attentive to His voice, you must be obedient as well. What good is it to listen intently to God's voice only to turn your ear away when He asks you to do something that you do not want to do? Train your heart to obey every time He speaks, and be faithful to listen. God speaks more to those who willingly obey and less to those who turn their ear when it goes against their heart. Even as the Lord said to Ezekiel,

“And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?

“Therefore speak to them, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of

his idols...”” Ezekiel 14:2–4

When we live according to the dictates of our own heart, we are allowing an idol to rise up against the Lord. If we make anything a priority over God, it must be taken down. His will comes first even if it goes against our logic, wisdom, desire, or heart. Be fervent to love God in truth, and serve Him with a humble heart. Surrender your will completely to Him. Let Him control your life. In what way will He ever lead you down a bad path? Even if trials come, know that God is using them both for a greater good and to test you. He is testing you to see whether you will follow Him with sincerity or only when it's convenient. As it is written,

“And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.” Deuteronomy 8:2

But why would He allow these times of trials? As it is also written of God,

“[He] fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end...” Deuteronomy 8:16

God intends to do good to us through the evil circumstance—a good that is greater than the means to get there. As we also read,

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18

And also,

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

God intends to work every circumstance in your life together for good. While He leads you from season to season, there will be times when He will bring you into valley experience—a truly low moment in your life. Before we are raised up, first we are lowered. Even as it is also written,

“The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is

humility.” Proverbs 15:33

So don’t let the circumstances of life determine how or if you’ll follow the Lord. Trust Him in faith, knowing that He will test you; and as you pass the test, He will carry you out of the valley of suffering with newly gained lessons of wisdom. God will use the hardships in your life to teach you an eternally valuable wisdom.

Be diligent to obey His voice. For God considers those who obey Him to be His friends. Even as Jesus said,

“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.” John 15:14

If we call ourselves Christian, then we must follow Christ and listen to His voice. “Christian” literally means “follower of Christ.” And as it is also written,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14

We are led by the Spirit when we hear God’s voice and obey. Those who do not obey are not led by the Spirit. Reading our Bibles and trying to apply them the way we see fit is not being led by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit will show you on a moment-by-moment basis how the Scripture applies to your life and should be lived out. God counts those who listen to His voice as His special treasure; hence, those who are led by the Spirit are counted as sons. As we also read,

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.” Exodus 19:5

God commands us to obey His voice. If we love Him, we will show this through obedience. Is the Holy Spirit’s conviction ever wrong? Then why are there some who pay more attention to their own heart than to the convictions of God? Let it not be so with you! Seek the voice of God fervently; be sensitive to it and diligent to obey.

But that we must be led by the Spirit is evident. He alone knows the way to where we are going. He will guide us through the desert of this life and carry us gently into the Promised Land, which for us is eternal life with our Lord. God has used the real events that took place with Israel as living parables for our edification. As it is written,

“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” 1 Corinthians

10:11

Symbolically speaking, Israel, which was taken from Egypt, is the Church, which is taken out of the world through a relationship with Christ. We are baptized together in the blood of Christ just as Israel passed through the Red Sea, which was once turned to blood in the days of Moses.

Now, having received Jesus, we have together drunk of the spiritual Rock that is Christ, similar to the rock that followed Israel, of which they drank—the rock that Moses struck twice but that God intended to be struck only once. Why did he have to strike it once? Because the rock symbolized Jesus, who died once and for all our sins. Then, after the rock had been struck, the river that poured from the rock provided drink to the multitudes, who were parched for water. This symbolized the Holy Spirit, who was poured out on our dry and thirsty hearts.

Then, after their forty years in the desert, they were led into the Promised Land but first had to cross through the river Jordan. In the days of Jesus, what happened in the Jordan River? John baptized. But what did the baptism symbolize? The death of the mortal body, which went down into the water and is raised eternal. Even as Paul said,

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” 1 Corinthians 15:51–55

Similarly, when Christ leads us into the Promised Land of eternal life, our mortal bodies will put on immortality. Even as Israel passed through the Jordan to receive the promises of God, so we will pass through the spiritual baptism, being baptized together into a new body that knows no sin. By this we will receive the fullness of the promises of God.

However, note also that, during their plight in the desert, God went before them in a fiery pillar at night and a cloud by day to lead the way. Likewise, the ark went before them by a great distance to guide them. The ark contained the presence of the Spirit of God, who led the children of Israel. We likewise must be led by God through each day, even as they were. Also, we must be led out of this desert and into the Promised Land by Jesus, just as Joshua led Israel into the

land. It is certainly no irony that the Greek name 'Jesus' is actually 'Joshua' in Hebrew.

Therefore, as Israel was led daily by God, so we must be led as well. Even as we read,

“Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him. But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.” Exodus 23:20–22

This Angel whom God sent is actually the Angel of the Lord, or the spiritual body of God, who came from time to time to men. But that the Angel of the Lord is God is evident. As it is written at a later point in the Scriptures,

“Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, ‘What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?’ And the Angel of the LORD said to him, ‘Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?’ So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on—it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the LORD. And Manoah said to his wife, ‘We shall surely die, because we have seen God!’” Judges 13:17–22

In today’s terms, Exodus 23:20–22 is telling us to obey the Holy Spirit’s voice. This is why it says not to “provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions, for my name is in Him.” For as we all know, to blaspheme the Holy Spirit is unforgivable. As Jesus said,

“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” Matthew 12:31–32

Let us then fear the Lord, being swift to obey the Spirit of God and careful not to question His wisdom. For those who claim that the Spirit’s voice should not be followed and that their own personal wisdom is greater are claiming to be

greater than God, and speaking evil of the Spirit by claiming God's wisdom is flawed. Be careful not to do this. While this may not be direct blaspheming of the Spirit, it constitutes undue disrespect to the Person who is leading you to eternal life. If we disrespect the Holy Spirit we can be certain discipline will follow.

Become sensitive to the voice of God and follow Him no matter what. Now, there will be some people, even among pastors, who will disagree with this and tell you there is nothing wrong with following your own heart because God has grace. But what do we read?

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD. They continually say to those who despise Me, “The LORD has said, ‘You shall have peace’”; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, “No evil shall come upon you.”’” Jeremiah 23:16–17

The prophets of old are symbolic of the false teachers of today. Even as Peter said,

“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.” 2 Peter 2:1

The false teachers of today will come to you as men of God who love the Lord. But then they will itch your ear rather than inform you of your need for obedience to the Spirit of God. Be careful of these people and walk in the wisdom of the Spirit of God. Keep yourself untainted from the doctrines of men and give yourself wholeheartedly to the doctrine of Christ. For even Jesus denied His own doctrine and attributed it to the Father. As we read,

“Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.’” John 7:16–18

Jesus made it clear that those who speak from themselves seek their own glory. Those who live according to their own interpretations of the Bible are playing God whether they realize it or not. God intended for His Scripture to be applied

only one way. If we form opinions on Scripture, then we will apply it according to the dictates of our own heart rather than by Christ's dictation. Jesus emphasized His own need to conform to the doctrine of the Father. If our Lord made such an effort, due to His need, how much more should we be found doing the same to please God? But that walking in His truth pleases Him is evident. As we mentioned in the previous chapter,

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." 3 John 4:1

Knowing this, let us establish ourselves in the pure doctrine of Christ. This is only done through following and obeying the Spirit at all times. As we listen to His voice when we read our Bibles, He will lead us to the truth and teach it to us. He will interpret the deep wisdom behind the Scriptures and show us how to apply it rightly in our lives. As it is also written,

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth..." John 16:13

Be submissive to the Spirit of God and diligent to learn from Him. But that we must learn from the Spirit is evident. For it is also written,

"These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual." 1 Corinthians 2:13

Let God be your master in all things, and seek to be taught by Him alone. When you know that God has taught you something, cling to it and do not be carried away by the various winds of doctrine. As we also read,

"that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ..." Ephesians 4:14–15

And also,

"But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:14–15

Cling to that which the Holy Spirit has taught you. But there will be some men who will come with the appearance of Christ and a secret desire to lead you astray. They will entice you with doctrine that appeals to you but have no interest in leading you to the truth. God uses such men to test you—to see whether or not

you will remain sincere to God. As it is written,

“If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.” Deuteronomy 13:1–4

Therefore, be watchful in your prayer and circumspect in your doctrine. As we read,

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.” 1 Peter 4:7

Be careful not to live according to your own interpretation but to submit to God’s truth. This isn’t always convenient or easy but, rather, can be difficult to accept at times. But deny your own heart and your own opinion. Do not seek the opinion of others regarding the meaning of the Scripture, because God’s opinion is all that matters. Any pastor who loves the Lord in truth will desire to teach you exactly that—the opinions and doctrine of God.

Do not follow your heart. You have no ability to plan for the future God is creating for you. Remember that God has plans for you. All you need to do is submit to them and obey His voice. And as we read,

“Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Psalm 100:3

Let God create your future. Is He not a better creator than we? Isn’t He able to give you a better future than you could imagine? Submit to God and honor Him with your life. That way your life may become a living worship to Him—due glory given by a true praise warrior.

Chapter Three

Overcoming Through the Spirit

A strong Christian isn't determined by his or her own strength. A truly strong Christian is actually weak but makes God his or her strength in everything. Such a person is humble enough to admit his or her weaknesses and then leans on Christ for strength. The more we learn to rely on the Lord, the stronger we will become. No matter where you're at in your walk, you are always given the strength you need through the Holy Spirit.

Knowing this, practice leaning on Him in everything. Turn to Him in times of hurt, need, and temptation. Meditate on the Spirit and listen carefully for His voice. Then, when He speaks to you, swiftly obey Him as a faithful servant.

When we keep our eyes fixed on the Spirit, it lifts our hearts up. As the Spirit overcomes us, we feel filled with His joy. That joy bubbles up in our hearts and overflows into a never-ending song of praise. Remember that the Father wants worshippers in spirit and truth. By meditating on the Spirit when worshipping, you allow the Spirit to take over your worship and overflow you with an incomprehensible joy.

No matter where you're at or what's happening to you, you'll feel strengthened and at peace and you will find yourself rejoicing. Even during the hardest moments of life, it's possible to find joy. Unlike the world, which only suffers sorrow during hardship or heartache, when we meditate on the Lord and release all things to Him, we find moments of rejoicing in His Spirit.

Focus on these things and become a habitual worshipper. We ought to worship, not out of obligation but out of love, thankfulness, and due reverence. Although joy can turn into an automatic love song for Jesus, we shouldn't only praise God when we're happy. We need to learn to lift up our hands and worship even in sorrow, as Job did. Remember that he worshipped God in all his heartache and was considered righteous. As it is written,

“Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; and a messenger came to Job and said, ‘The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, when the Sabeans raided them and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!’

“While he was still speaking, another also came and said, ‘The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!’

“While he was still speaking, another also came and said, ‘The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!’

“While he was still speaking, another also came and said, ‘Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!’

“Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

“And he said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’ In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.” Job 1:13–22

Everything fell apart on Job in a day. He lost everything, even his children. But in all this, he neither charged God with wrong nor cursed Him. Instead, his first response was to fall down on his knees and worship. Let each of us keep the same heart.

Today when someone loses a child, the last thing he or she often thinks to do is to praise God. “Why should I praise the Lord for losing my child?” some would ask. But by this question alone, it’s obvious that they do not have the right heart.

We don’t praise Him that our suffering takes place but that He is good no matter what. Whether we have our children or lose them, rather than cursing God and saying, “How could You allow such evil to happen to me?” we should say, “God, I believe You’re good and love me no matter what. I don’t know how anything good could possibly come from this, but I believe that You are able.” Then we should worship Him because He is good and because we believe that He will create beauty from the ashes of our lives.

As we continue in the Spirit, His joy and strength come naturally. Although we may suffer, hardship won’t be as difficult as if we focus on ourselves. When we focus on ourselves and our circumstances, we are really just being selfish. We are thinking about our hurt, our wants, our desires, and our needs rather than on lifting these things up to Jesus. We need to hand these things over to God so that

He would comfort us and so that His heart may be portrayed through us no matter what we go through.

Even as it is written,

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.” 2 Corinthians 4:7–11

God wants to manifest Himself through us. He desires to display His immortal power, goodness, and love through our mortal flesh and temporary sufferings. The world only knows mortality. It sees the mortal things of the flesh in us, such as hunger, thirst, need, and brokenness. However, when it sees the immortal power of God working through us by joy, strength, and loving-kindness, it desires to know what we have that is different. We become witnesses to those around us when we rejoice in our suffering.

“Look at all you’re going through! How can you possibly be happy?” an unbeliever may ask you. You see how that opens a door for witnessing? It gives you an opportunity to reply, “The Lord overcomes all things in my life, and His love for me brings me joy. No matter what I go through, I have Jesus, and I can’t help but worship Him because of how good He is to me.”

We are the living testimony of Christ. The invisible God is plainly seen through our trials. As we overcome them through His supernatural means, the world begins to perceive the God whom they cannot see. Thus, we always carry about the dying of our Lord Jesus, and as we overcome through His power, it gives testimony to His resurrection and saving strength.

This is a good reason to rejoice! No matter how hard this life becomes, you’re saved. No matter what you go through, God will deliver you, lift up your heart, and give you joy again. It is in His purpose to make you rejoice. God has promised a new life in heaven without suffering. Reflect on this and praise Him for it. Reflecting on His promises will comfort you and increase your faith.

But before we can stand on the mountain of salvation, first we must go through the valley of suffering. Before mortality can put on immortality, first we must experience the pains that mortality brings. Even as our Lord suffered death and

was raised eternal, we also must carry about the death of our Lord in this life to receive the eternal joy and peace He intends to give us.

Thus it is also written,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.” 2 Corinthians 1:3–7

First we partake of the suffering; then we become partakers of the consolation. Yet as we experience all of these things, we need to remember to comfort one another even as God comforts us. How is the love of God being portrayed through us if we don’t take care of each other? Look for the suffering in the church—and not merely that of your friends or of those you know.

Keep your eyes open for those whom God reveals to you, and love them perfectly. If they need a home, then give them one. If they need help with rent, then help them lest they lose their home. If they’re hungry, then feed them; if they’re thirsty, give them a drink. Remember that Jesus calls you to do these things for your enemies; how much more should you be doing these things for the faithful children of God?

Wouldn’t justice dictate that a righteous person, a believer in Jesus Christ, should be delivered from their sufferings? They have put their faith in God; now let God answer their prayers through you. Be the answer to their prayers by having the will to be used as the tool of God.

Yet these things are impossible for us unless God works them through us. While any of us can work out love, no one can work out God’s love except through Christ Jesus. Christ is at work in us as we surrender to His Holy Spirit. When we surrender to the Spirit, listen for His voice, and obey Him, He works through us by faith.

When we hear the Lord, we find faith, and in our faith, God is our strength. Hence it is also written,

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” 1 John 5:4

Our victory is our faith, but we can’t find faith without the word of God. The word is so much more than the written pages; it is also the things the Holy Spirit speaks. Every ounce of Scripture has been spoken by the Holy Spirit. It is God-breathed and God-inspired.

The Spirit wrote these things through men, and this is why we call it the word of God. Yet we must also remember that every word God speaks is the word of God. Therefore, we must become discerners of the voice of God, not being tossed to and fro by the will of men or of our own hearts. But having put on perfect discernment, we should be strengthened and made steadfast through our foundation, Jesus Christ. Let each of us learn the voice of God and discern it from our own hearts and the subtle voice of the enemy.

One of the best ways to grow in discernment is through reading the Scriptures and writing down the words you feel the Spirit speaking into your heart. Write down everything He speaks. Buy a wide-margin Bible and write along the margins so that your notes can be right there every time you need them. But don’t merely write your thoughts, only the things the Spirit speaks.

Come to a peaceful mind and let the Holy Spirit speak. Our minds tend to run a rampage when reading His word. Settle your thoughts and just let God talk. Then, as you learn to discern His voice from your own thoughts, you will understand Him more clearly in other areas of life as well.

Whenever the Holy Spirit speaks, obey Him, and He will give you strength to do as He told you. We find our strength through faith. How did David overcome the giant? Through faith, no doubt. How did Peter walk on water, and why did he fall in? Because at first he had faith but then he feared. How did Gideon overcome massive armies? Through faith in the word of God spoken to him.

Why was Abraham declared righteous? Because he believed the spoken word of God. The Lord told Abraham that his descendants would be more numerous than the stars in the sky, and he believed, which was accounted to him for righteousness. The Lord told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, but Abraham believed that God is the God of the living, not of the dead, and reckoned that the Lord had the power to raise the dead. How could the promises be upheld through Isaac if Isaac were dead? Therefore, God intended to do a work, and Abraham believed this. And through Abraham’s faith, the attributes of Christ were vividly displayed, with Abraham being like the Father and Isaac like Christ. Our Father

willingly sacrificed His Son out of love for you. But as Isaac was offered back to Abraham alive, so Jesus has been made alive.

And here's a second parable. Abraham is like the Father, Isaac is like you, and the ram in the bush is like Christ. You were to be sacrificed because of your sin, but the Lord spoke and made atonement for you by being a scapegoat to save your life. Thus, the scapegoat is Christ, who delivered you from the hand of the Father so that you should be forgiven.

When we decide to walk by faith and obey the Holy Spirit, the attributes of Christ are vividly portrayed in our lives. Others see Jesus alive and well, working through us, which gives testimony to His resurrection. Knowing, then, that our Lord has been resurrected, an unbeliever can find faith that they as well shall be raised to life through faith in Jesus Christ. Thus, our sufferings produce eternal life both in ourselves and in others as we learn to rest on the Holy Spirit for strength.

There is nothing too difficult for God. There's nothing too hard for Him. So let's be found resting our heads gently on the shoulder of Jesus, as John did at the Last Supper. Lean on the Lord for strength and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

We feel the infilling of God when we meditate on the Spirit's presence while we worship or pray. Although we receive the Spirit on the day of our salvation, we feel Him most when we pay attention to Him. God calls us to pay attention to Him, that we can hear His voice and obey.

How can we hear someone unless we pay attention? So give the Spirit your attention and meditate on Him. Listen to His voice and let His joy overtake you. Worship in the Holy Spirit and honor God with all your heart. In these ways, you will overcome every trial that you will ever experience.

Chapter Four

Gratitude Is Greater

Having a thankful heart opens your eyes to perceive the work of God around you. When you see Him working clearly, it increases your faith. When your faith is increased, you experience God in a deeper and more intimate way.

Gratitude leads us to a cycle of continual growth, faith, joy, and more gratitude. But if we aren't grateful for the things the Lord does, we become complacent. In our complacency, we don't see Him working as clearly. Then, when trials come, we aren't accustomed to looking for the hand of God and praising Him for everything He does.

It's easy to fall into the cycle of negativity an unthankful heart creates. During trials, an unthankful person will naturally have fear, doubt, anger, selfishness (to do whatever it takes to get out of his or her situation), and self-will (to act out of fear rather than wait for God). Such a person will try to save himself or herself, then experience brokenness after seeing how God was taking care of him or her even as the person fretted sinfully against the Lord.

But if such a person were accustomed to looking for God's work in his or her life, praising Him for it and meditating on His Spirit, he or she would by nature grow beyond these sinful tendencies. Gratitude produces growth, but an unthankful heart keeps a person in a state of complacency.

When we see God working, it helps us to know His will. When we know His will, we can tell the future God intends for us. When we know how He intends to bless us, it produces a mouth full of praise. By knowing His will, you can live according to it and please Him. If you want to understand His will in any circumstance, then you need to pay attention to the things He's doing. Remember that Paul said,

"To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily." Colossians 1:29

If we see His hand working, then we can strive according to it. If we hear Him more clearly, then we can obey more sincerely. Pursuing a life of gratitude forces us to think differently. As you consider daily the things for which you should be grateful, by nature you begin to see and understand the things the Lord is doing

around you. When you understand what God is doing behind the scenes in your life, it helps you to understand what He may be calling you to do on a moment-by-moment basis. By listening to the Spirit and paying greater attention to Him, you will understand the will of God and thus have a more effective walk.

It's incredible what a little gratitude can do. Gratitude can change your heart and your whole outlook on life. Thankfulness leads to relief and joy. It always becomes a natural overflow of praise.

When we worship, we meditate on the Spirit of God by nature. Remember that Jesus said,

"...the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him." John 4:23

When we worship from the heart, we worship in spirit. True worship isn't merely singing about God but aiming your praises at Him—directly to His face. Pour out your heart to God in a praise-filled conversation and let His Spirit consume the air you breathe.

As you worship, it will seem as if He appears out of nowhere and then abundantly fills the room. The truth is that He's always been there, but now that you've given Him your attention, you're more aware of His presence.

The more you meditate on His presence and communicate with Him, the more you'll understand His voice. When you understand His voice clearly, you will know the things He requires of you. His Spirit will strengthen you to overcome sin, triumph in trials, and find peace during the greatest storms. If you don't meditate on His Spirit, you won't experience the fullness of His desires for you. But having the right heart will change how you approach your relationship with Him.

When you choose a heart of praise, it forces you to think differently. Rather than looking at fearful circumstances, you will look for ways to worship; rather than sitting in brokenness, you'll stand up to rejoice. Changing how you think and how you approach God changes other areas of your life as well. Having the right heart produces great righteousness. That heart can be realized through choosing praise.

There was once a pastor who always looked for the good in his life to praise God for it, but it was hard for Him to be thankful when he couldn't see anything good about his circumstances. Then one day, when he was visiting Israel, he stood by

the Wailing Wall where Jews were gathered to celebrate on a Sabbath. As he was there, the Palestinians began attacking the area with Scud missiles. Rather than running in fear, some faithful Jews began rejoicing with all their hearts.

He asked his tour guide why they were doing this, and the guide simply replied, “They are celebrating, and sometimes it’s just good to praise the Lord.”

This really shook him because he, having the Spirit, didn’t rejoice during the least of his trials. But these unsaved Jews worshipped God with all their hearts while missiles were flying over their heads. At any moment they could have been struck and killed, but this didn’t change their attitude. If a life-threatening situation didn’t change their attitude, why should our trials change yours or mine?

Whether or not you see the goodness of God in your life, you should always praise Him as Job did. When the enemy is firing his spiritual missiles at you, worship God all the more. For the Lord will conquer every situation that comes your way and end your turmoil with His perfect peace.

Chapter Five

Lips That Glorify and Not Complain

Trials can keep us downcast. It's easy to focus on our situations when we're afflicted by everything around us. When we focus on the situation rather than on Christ, we focus on our own strength and on what our own ability can supply.

When we live by our own strength, it's like seeking shelter from a storm under an umbrella. How can someone ignore the storm when he or she is sitting outside without an umbrella? Even if you sit under an umbrella, you still have to deal with the wind and the sound of thunder.

But Jesus is our mighty refuge. He's a bomb shelter in times of trouble. He's our hiding place, where we are fed and sustained while we wait for the fallout to settle. Those who put their trust in Christ may receive nicks and cuts but will never suffer a life-threatening wound. Yes, we may get bumps and bruises and be tossed around a bit, but never shall we be reeling to and fro like a sailor on a hurricane-tossed vessel.

God is our mighty refuge and source of hope. He's the lighthouse warning us of all trouble in the raging storm. And where would you rather be—planted upon the rock or trying to navigate the tempest-tossed waters to find dry ground?

If we allow pride to get in the way, we'll never seek the strength found in Christ as we ought. Reliance on ourselves gives place to complaining in trials, complacency in peace, and fear in trouble. But if we trust in the Lord, relying on Him for everything, we find ourselves rejoicing because He saves us in His goodness. Yes, trials may come, but rather than fear, faith will take hold of us. Rather than complaining, patience is found. Then, as we wait patiently for the Lord to save us, we'll find peace and rest under the wing of His hope.

Pride rages, but the heart of faith brings peace. Faith produces godly humility, but pride produces embarrassment.

There once was an arrogant captain who commanded one of the largest battleships in the United States Navy. It was the second largest of its kind. He, in his pride, forced others to the side and always put himself first. Then one day, while he was sailing with his crew, a storm arose.

The deluge was so great that they couldn't see anything around them. After a

while of navigating the tempest-tossed waters, a small light appeared on the horizon. A crewman said to the captain, “Sir, a small ship is approaching us, and we’re on a collision course.”

While he was speaking, the small light sent a message on the radio. “Kindly note, please move to the side.” But the captain didn’t like being told what to do by a smaller vessel.

“No, you move,” he retorted, assuming it to be a small tugboat or something of the like.

“No, sir, please go around us,” the small light replied.

But this only made the captain fume. “No, you turn aside!” he insisted as the light grew closer.

“No, sir,” said the small light, which was now much nearer than before. “Please change your course so you can go safely around us.” The man’s obstinance brought out the arrogance of the captain.

“Safely around you? Who do you think you are? We’re a battleship! You’ll be destroyed if you don’t move. Now move aside!”

But the small light calmly replied, “And we’re a lighthouse.”

Pride causes us to rage in confidence but leads us to embarrassment in the end. When trials overtake us, we can’t see clearly to understand our circumstances. Then, in the weakness of our flesh, our hardship makes our best efforts seem foolish. God allows this to happen to remind us of our need for Him and His saving strength. But first we must have the humility to admit that need and then find rest in His arms.

Remember to focus on the Lord today—no matter where you’re at or what you’re going through. No matter how good your life may be or how bad it may be, give Jesus your attention. Lift up your hands, and praise. Remember His faithfulness, and rest upon it. Meditate on His goodness and how He’s been faithful before, and believe that He will be faithful again.

Be careful not to give yourself over to a complaining tongue. It’s easy to look at our circumstances and complain about what’s not right in our lives. If we focus on the negativity, however, we forget to focus on the positive. Focusing on the positive things God is doing in your life will lift up your heart to praise.

No matter where you’re at or what you’re going through, God is always doing something that will make you rejoice. All you need to do is open your eyes and

see His working hand. And if you've opened your eyes and can't see anything good, it could be because the tears of pain are blinding you. In this case, give your hurt to God, rest in Him, let Him comfort you, and then pray for open eyes to see His goodness. You may not perceive it immediately, but if you set your heart on seeing the work of the Lord around you, it will seem to spring up out of nowhere.

It's like the schoolgirl walking home sullen because she was picked on in class. Then, halfway home, she lifted up her eyes to heaven and asked the Lord to comfort her and give her joy again.

When she looked down at her feet, she saw the most beautiful little flower—a present from God. Then, as she picked it, she looked up and saw that the whole field was full of flowers. She had been walking alongside it yet completely missed what God had planted next to her because she was focusing on her situation rather than on the beauty the Lord was creating around her.

When you pray to see God's involvement in your life, the Lord's hand will appear to be moving more than ever. But in reality, your eyes are just beginning to notice it. Like flowers springing up out of the field, so the beauty of God's hand will appear before you. Pray for open eyes, and the Lord will make you rejoice!

Praise Him continually and commit your tongue to speaking of His glory. Our mouths reflect our hearts. Jesus said,

“...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” Matthew 12:34

If our hearts only focus on the negative things in life, we will give way to complaining. A complaining mouth does not reflect a heart of faith. But a mouth full of praise reflects a believing and joyous spirit. Let your deep, inward person trust in the Lord and continually praise Him no matter what.

Change your words to change your outlook on life. When you change your words, you are forced to think differently. When you think of ways to praise God rather than complain, you change the way you understand the situation. It enables your mind to realize the bigger picture. It helps you to see the situation from God's eyes as His Spirit opens your mind to perceive how He is working all things together for good.

So keep a heart of gratitude in every circumstance of life. Remember His faithfulness, meditate on it, and praise Him for it. Don't give way to complaining but, rather, worship God. Whenever we're in the midst of a storm, meditating on

how He has been faithful before, it helps us to remember that He will be faithful again. But if we only look at the current circumstance of life, we'll be in a boat on a rough sea. We'll be tempest-tossed, reeling in fear, or embarrassed when our pride is turned into humiliation.

We must learn to anchor ourselves steadfastly on the rock. When we remember how He has worked in our lives before, we have something to which to cling for faith. This is your rock to remember and hold onto. Hold onto the memory of God's goodness and keep the faith. Then, after He has worked everything together for good, remember how He was good and save this knowledge for the next trial. By increasing your faith, this will create a natural overflow of praise.

Meditate on the goodness of the Lord and let His joy overtake you. Then, from the abundance of your heart, your mouth will sing His praises. Like a spring bubbling over into a brook, so your mouth will bless the Lord continually.

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Adam is a preacher, teacher and #1 internationally bestselling author of over 100 books on the Christian faith. He is a devoted husband and father of three boys. Through his travels, he's seen the need for a new awakening and a new revival: a revival of the heart. Come join Adam on this journey of redemption and experience God like never before!

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