



RELENTLESS PRAISE



Text: Judges 1:1-4 NIV

After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the Lord, “Who of us is to go up first to fight against the Canaanites?” The Lord answered, “Judah shall go up; I have given the land into their hands.” The men of Judah then said to the Simeonites their fellow Israelites, “Come up with us into the territory allotted to us, to fight against the Canaanites. We in turn will go with you into yours.” So the Simeonites went with them. When Judah attacked, the Lord gave the Canaanites and Perizzites into their hands, and they struck down ten thousand men at Bezek. 5 It was there that they found Adoni-Bezek and fought against him, putting to rout the Canaanites and Perizzites and they killed 10,000 enemy warriors at the town of Bezek.

Intro:

CONFESSION

In 2021 I am moving forward. My future is bright, and my tomorrow is great. I refuse to let my past behind me, people around me, or problems that face me, keep me from moving forward. My pathway ahead is filled with potential and possibility. New doors are opening, new relationships are forming. I’m getting wiser and stronger everyday. This year by the grace of God I am moving forward.

- Victory belongs to the praisers
- Put your praise out front
- Praise sets the pace

2 Chronicles 20:20-24 NLT

Early the next morning the army of Judah went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. On the way Jehoshaphat stopped and said, “Listen to me, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Believe in

the Lord your God, and you will be able to stand firm. Believe in his prophets, and you will succeed.” After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang:

“Give thanks to the Lord;
his faithful love endures forever!”

At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves. The armies of Moab and Ammon turned against their allies from Mount Seir and killed every one of them. After they had destroyed the army of Seir, they began attacking each other. So when the army of Judah arrived at the lookout point in the wilderness, all they saw were dead bodies lying on the ground as far as they could see. Not a single one of the enemy had escaped.

1) The Power Praise

1. **The Bible commands it.** As the Psalmist says, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6).

2. **Praise facilitates access to God.**

- “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus...” Hebrews 10:19

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise” (Psalm 100:4).

3. **Praise is where God lives.** Wait a minute, isn't God omnipresent – everywhere, all the time? Absolutely! Yet His presence is especially intense in an atmosphere of praise. The Bible says God is “Enthroned upon the praises of Israel” (Psalm 22:3).

4. **Praise promotes productivity.** According to the Word, the Earth yields its produce in the presence of praise. (Psalm 67:5-6) 5 May the nations praise you, O God Yes, may all the nations praise you. 6 Then the earth will yield its harvests, and God, our God, will richly bless us . Does this mean crops are actually going to grow better where praise is present? Perhaps. Why not? Whatever your feelings on the matter, I like Jack Taylor's commentary in his book The Hallelujah Factor. “When we praise, productivity is maximized, fulfillment is realized and frustration is neutralized” (p. 31).

5. **Praise chases away despair.** (Isaiah 61:3) and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

6. **Praise is an effective weapon against the devil.** I firmly believe Satan, once the good angel Lucifer and God's praise leader (Isaiah 14), was kicked out of heaven and doomed to destruction due to his desire to be like God. He has hated praise ever since because of its reminder of what he gave up and can't regain.
7. **God is worthy of it.** "The Lord is great and worthy of our praise" (NCV). While it's obviously good to praise and encourage those around us, God alone deserves our heartfelt worship and supreme allegiance.

II) Relentless

Psalm 9:1-4 ESV

- 1 I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
- 2 I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
- 3 When my enemies turn back,
they stumble and perish before[c] your presence.
- 4 For you have maintained my just cause;
you have sat on the throne, giving righteous judgment.

A. Relentless- determined to do something and refuses to give up, persistent.

1. Relentless vs. Resilient
 - Resilient is to hold your ground
 - Relentless is to move forward
 - Praise propels you forward!
 - The author declares four times "I Will"

B. 4 Keys To Relentless Praise

1. Be Thankful

"I will give thanks with my whole heart"

- There is always something to give thanks for
- Thankfulness is something that flows from the heart

"in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV

2. Never Forget

"I will recount all of your wonderful deeds"

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:"

Psalms 103:2 NKJV

3. Be Glad

“ I will be glad and exult in you“

Glad - to be cheerful or joyful

- This is a disposition that demands discipline
- Being glad is a choice

“Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice.”

Psalms 51:8 NKJV

“You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.””

Hebrews 1:9 NKJV

4. Sing your Song

“ I will sing praises to your name“

- Notice the psalmist praises God before he mentions his enemies
- Too many times our focus is on our enemies instead of praising our God

“You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah”

Psalms 32:7 NKJV