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PRAISE AS A WEAPON

Often when we are in a spiritual battle, we don't think about praising the Lord. It doesn't feel natural when you are on the battlefield, but God used praise to defeat the enemy when King Jehoshaphat was told to send the singers out on the frontline of battle before the soldiers.

The enemies were coming against King Jehoshaphat from all sides. He didn't know what to do. (Does this sound like a situation you might have been in?) He decided to set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast (II Chronicles 20:3).

The people came together, and Jehoshaphat said in verse 7, ***"Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend forever? And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein, for thy name, saying, If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help."***

The first thing King Jehoshaphat did was remind God of his promises for Israel. Then he goes on to say the enemy was coming against "God's people" and in verse 12 he prayed, ***"O our God, wilt thou not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; either know we what to do: but our eyes are on you."*** Whenever we don't know what to do, we must keep our eyes on the Lord.

He asked God for help. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel, a Levite, in the midst of the congregation and he gave a word from the Lord in verse 15 which says, ***"...Be not afraid not dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's."***

He followed the advice, and in verse 21 it says, ***"And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out BEFORE the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth forever."***

Now I am sure the singers were concerned, but they had heard the word that the battle was God's, and they went forth in faith. In verse 22 it says, ***"And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten."***

The battle was won the "praise team" started singing. They didn't use any weapon other than praise. We too can win the battle when we praise God and give him our battles. We can see situations change instantly and the enemies against us defeated. So, praise him. Praise him in the good times. Praise him in the tough times. Psalm 150:6 says, ***"Let everything that hath breath (everything that is alive) praise the LORD. Praise ye the Lord."***