

## **Praise Perspective**

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic  
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Paul's goal was to preach in Rome, a city of commerce with a teeming population, to witness an evangelization explosion. However, he did not go to Rome as a preacher; rather he arrived as a prisoner (Acts 28). He was wrongfully accused and faced an uncertain future; he was perfectly fit for anxiety. And yet he had the audacity to proclaim, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Phil 4:4). Paul rejoiced through praise perspective because he trusted God who was in complete control of his situation.

### **1. It's All About Perspective**

- Perspective is the way one sees something. Two people may be looking at the same thing but are seeing differently from diverse angles.
- An example is "Magic Eye", a 3-dimensional image, hidden in a colorful 2-dimensional image that appears only by focusing hard and looking through the 2-dimensional image.
- Paul could have looked at his circumstances at face value from a perspective of fear. Rather, he resolved to praise the Lord always and at all times.

### **2. The Basis for Rejoicing**

- Paul's basis for rejoicing was in the confidence that God was in control of his situation and that there was no need to worry for He would take care of him. With God, he could be certain that something good is coming out of any situation.
- Paul and Silas were likewise persecuted and imprisoned (Acts 16:22-24). Despite their ordeal in the middle of their dark prison cell, they prayed and sang praises to God (v. 25).
- In the middle of their praise, the Lord came and set them free (v. 26).
- They praised God for who He was, not for what He could do.

### **3. The Key That Unlocks Our Miracle**

- The key that unlocks your miracle is the sound of praise. We must learn to stop complaining and instead remember that God inhabits in the praises of His people (Ps 22:3).
- When we praise the Lord, we bring God's glory, goodness and supremacy into our ugly situation where He takes full control.

### **4. In Jesus There Is Always Good News**

- Jesus who died on the cross to save us, rose from the dead. We are, likewise, assured that He will not leave us in our ugly situations because He has set us free.

Let us praise God, though we do not see the answer to our prayers yet. Let us not be anxious about anything, but instead pray with thanksgiving (Phil 4:6).

Let our Hallelujahs in the middle of the storm, in our prison cells shackled in chains, wipe out our anxiety, despair and desperation, and watch as Heaven alleviate our situation.

Let us see things from a praise perspective and rejoice in the Lord!

#### **Reflection(s):**

- 1 Are you stripped of confidence, peace, joy, courage, or hope? Are you also weighed down by anxiety, worry, doubt, or discouragement?
2. Have you resorted to praise perspective to alleviate your anxiety and fear?

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