

## WORD AND WORSHIP

PASTOR REVIN VASALLO

For the past months, the Lord graciously allowed us to go through an in-depth study of the book of Exodus. One of the learnings I gleaned from our sermon series, is our never-ending and unchanging purpose as God's people, to worship God! The Lord had chosen and set apart the Israelites from the rest of the nations to worship Him. God delivered the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. God protected them from their enemies. God sustained them in the wilderness. And God had been with them all throughout their journey, just so the Israelites could worship and glorify Him!

In our wilderness journey this pandemic season, may we be reminded of our never-ending and unchanging purpose to lift up the name of our Lord. However, various crisis in life may sometimes hinder our worship. Amidst adversity, we often times find it difficult to continue to praise and give thanks to our Lord.

In one of my devotions in 2 Chronicles 20, God taught me one simple step to reinforce our worshipful heart whenever we are confronted with crisis - just continuously read the Word of God!

In 2 Chronicles 20, Jehoshaphat was faced with an impossible problem. Many nations conspired to wage war against Israel and were already coming against them! Jehoshaphat

acknowledged his powerlessness. And he didn't even know what else to do.

It was good that Jehoshaphat still remained focused on God and just lifted up his predicament unto the Lord. After his prayer, the Lord spoke through Jahaziel, a descendant of Asaph (one of David's worship leaders). And these are the words God gave to Jehoshaphat:

*"Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's... You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord... Do not be afraid; do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you."*

If we would look back, we realize that these words aren't new. These words were already spoken about in the past!

In 1 Samuel 17:47, David uttered these words to Goliath before taking him down "...**for the battle is the Lord's**, and he will give you into our hand!"

In Exodus 14:13, while Pharaoh and the Egyptian army were coming against the Israelites, Moses said to his people "Fear not, **stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord**, which he will work for you today."

In Joshua 1:9, the Lord Himself commissioned Joshua and

empowered him with these words: "**Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**"

After hearing and being reminded of God's Word through Jahaziel, King Jehoshaphat fell down before the Lord and worshipped Him! And on the day of battle, Jehoshaphat appointed singers to praise God and they sang, "Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!". Even before the battle commenced, they were already praising and thanking God! Even if they were completely outnumbered, they were assured of victory!

We, too, may have experienced hardships in life we could not solve, and this may have hampered our worship of God. Like Jehoshaphat, may we always find encouragement in God's Word. Whenever we struggle to praise and worship God due to our crisis in life, let's just read the Bible. We don't have to do something new. Just open the Bible and **LET GOD'S WORD DRIVE US TO WORSHIP!** ✨

