

Rejoicing in Spirit

The Spirit of Life - Week 13 (2-2-22)

Romans 15:8-13

2 Chronicles 20

I. Vs 7 - Remembering God's Provision and Faithfulness

- A. We need to regularly remember what God has done for us, as well as past generations.
 - 1. How many times did the Israelites get into trouble for not passing on the stories of God, and forgetting what He had done for them?!
 - 2. Tell the old stories - Dutch Sheets
 - 3. Never Forget!
- B. Music and worship is a powerful reminder and can be used as an excellent teaching tool.
- C. Luke 10:21 - Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and The Spirit is eternal
 - 1. We can rejoice in Spirit in hard times because all the wonderful things that God has said and done are eternal.
 - a) Weeping and heaviness is just for a season (1 Peter 1:6), but by faith in the spirit we can rejoice and praise for eternity in spite of our circumstances!
 - b) We are to worship God in spirit and in truth - John 4:23
- D. They had **hope** because they knew the character of their God, and that He was faithful to His promises.
 - 1. Romans 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing (steadfast) instant in prayer."
 - 2. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick, but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life." Proverbs 13:12
 - a) Deferred = drawn down to death.
 - b) When we are hoping in God's word we can fully trust that our hope will not be deferred because it's already as good as done.
 - (1) Don't let your hopes be drawn down to death but remember God's faithfulness in the past, and His promises for today and the future!
 - 3. Hope = elpis - anticipation with pleasure/joy, expectation, confidence, faith
 - a) The Anchor of our soul - Hebrews 6:19
 - (1) Proverbs 4:23 "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."
 - (2) We need the peace of God to keep (guard) our hearts. - Philippians 4:7

II. Vs. 12 - Humbly recognizing God as our ultimate source

- A. They recognized their limitations in the situation, and chose to turn their eyes to God.
 - 1. like the bronze serpent on the pole - John 3:14-15
 - 2. Romans 8:5-6 and 12:1-2
 - a) When we focus/meditate/magnify the things of the Spirit instead of our personal limitations, then those things are what manifest in our life.
 - b) Philippians 4:4-9

(1) vs. 6 - Be careful for nothing!

(2) 1 Peter 5:7 - We humble ourselves by casting our care on God

III. Vs. 20-22

A. vs. 20 (Young's Literal) "...remain steadfast in JEHOVAH your God, and be steadfast..."

1. Same word, "believe" and "establish".

a) When we establish ourselves and believe God we too become established.

(1) When a boat is anchored to the solid ocean floor, the boat then becomes solid as well.

B. vs. 21-22

1. Their praise was not required by God, but that is the road that got them to their victory.

a) They were not praising in order to make God's promise to them happen, but rather were praising because they already trusted God's promise to be as good as done.

(1) They praised their way to the manifestation.

2. "We have a choice to rejoice." DL

a) Their decision to rejoice is how they physically established themselves in God's promise.

b) It was their way of declaring what God had already done in the Spirit.

3. Our worship (and all of its many expressions) does not change God nor our circumstances, but puts us in a place to receive what we need from God.

a) It's an act of the will

(1) We need to summon the will to rejoice and praise God in faith. - in hard times as well as good times

(a) Psalm 118:24 "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we **will** rejoice and be glad in it."