

WHY - WORSHIP BRINGS VICTORY

OFFERING

I want to read a passage of scripture today before we receive the offering. I usually don't take long on offering because I just see it as something we do as an act of obedience to God to show our trust in Him. I teach on tithing and what generosity looks like for the believer a few times a year. I'm not afraid to teach on it because I want to follow Jesus example and it turns out - Jesus talked about money more than any other subject if you

PRAYER FOR ISRAEL

Scripture is clear. Israel is God's special people and it really is a special place on earth. This is the very ground Jesus walked on where the message of forgiveness was offered to the Jewish people and the gentiles. Some jews believed in Christ and were born again and many didn't but that doesn't change the principles we see in God's Word regarding praying for Israel

Psalm 83 and many other passages are a call to prayer for the peace of Israel.

They've been under attack with missiles from Hammas in Gaza for days now.

I visited Israel 3 years ago and got to hear from the head of the IDF - yes I sat in a meeting for an hour with the Leader of the Israeli Defense Force. I was a bit intimidated and remained silent as you can imagine. The IDF is highly regarded as one of the smartest, best tactical armies in the world.

He explained exactly what we hear Netanyahu say often "If the Israeli people put our weapons down, we die. If Hammas puts their weapons down, we'll have peace. We only use weapons to defend ourselves."

We've seen the Iron Dome in full display on the news. The Iron Dome is the IDF system of shooting down missiles in the air before they ever touch ground.

Let's pray for the peace of Israel right now.

Protection

Angels

Peace

Hammas to have revelations of Jesus and turn to Him in repentance!

No more loss of life. Over 80 have been killed in Isreal. Father no more loss of life!

Send revival to that Gaza Strip. Help them focus on their city and their economy and their world.

AMEN

We're doing a 9 week series called WHY

Why we Worship Why we Study God's Word Why we Plant Churches

Will Collens did a GREAT job last week teaching us that worship brings unity and unity brings the blessing of God. Great job Will! If you missed that sermon, tune in on our podcast - Apple Podcast, Spotify... we're on all those platforms... Take a listen to his sermon!

Worship brings unity to God's people. It sets us apart from the world. The tabernacle of Moses in the wilderness was a in a sense a big WORSHIP service and that was a separation from the rest of the world.

When David comes on the scene, he too creates a tabernacle but it's also mobile and it's a simple tent and he is so thankful to simply have God's presence. The ark represented the presence of God. We've talked about that alot here in my previous sermons.

He wanted to build a permeant temple for the Lord but as you may know, the Lord said that he couldn't because he had "shed too much blood" and that his son Solomon would build the Temple.

The 2nd Temple was built by Solomon and it was ornate and beautiful. It was lavish and they spared no expense in creating this beautiful sanctuary for God. So...

Worship has always been a way in which the people of God are separated from the rest of the world. **You and I, as Gentiles, are grafted into the people of Israel - the family of God. When we allow Jesus to forgive us of our sin, we are adopted into what was called the Jewish people or the "people of Israel" and through Christ, we are ALL sons and daughters of God! WOW! Our response to this grace? WORSHIP! Worship is our response to the goodness of God - in song, in practice, in life.**

So I wanted to lay that foundation first today because it's important. It's important because

We don't just worship and praise God because the music tells us too or because mom and dad did. We worship and give praise to God because He has delivered not only them but US. Worship is a result of our salvation - it's our response to His grace!

Today, I want to tell you two stories where the people of God worshiped God and then God changed their dire circumstances. Today's big takeaway is this

Worship brings victory. (Last wk Worship brings unity. This wk- worship brings victory)

Turn to Judges 6 and I want to tell you about Gideon.

Will referenced the story briefly last week and today I want to tell it in more vivid detail because it carries a principle I believe God wants us to get in our spirit today.

I know how Gideon felt that day. Helpless. Hopeless. Exhausted from being beaten by the enemy day-in, day-out. I've been there. Maybe you've been there. Maybe you're there right now. Let the Holy Spirit come to you right now and say to you "Greetings Mighty Warrior! You're going to get through this!"

A NATION IN DISTRESS (Judges 6)

When Gideon comes on the scene, the nation is in distress! They didn't have a solid leader since Joshua. The Lord has always been faithful to raise up a leader to deliver His people in a way that invites them to repent and turn to God. It would be five centuries before King David would come on the scene. This is the time of the judges. There were some wild judges, namely Samson and some amazing judges like Samuel. I think we might identify most with Gideon. I know I do. What you'll find in this story of Gideon is someone like you. Maybe like Gideon, you don't believe in yourself or God's ability to do anything special - anything miraculous in your life.

After all - you're just average. You're an average American Christian living in NE Ohio and miracles simply don't happen to you.

But do they?

Is that what God believes about you?

But is that what God sees?

Let's set the scene.

Can you imagine having your food stolen - right out of your home - week after week after week? Can you imagine a neighboring nation or people group that simply has more man power coming into your town and just taking what they want? Imagine how frustrating that would be! Imagine how helpless you'd feel! This is the moment in which Gideon and his family and their people were in.

Imagine this is your life - in 2021. Imagine you work a 40 hour week - some weeks 50 hours. And week after week, a thief logs into your bank account and withdraws 90% of what you deposited on Friday when you got your paycheck.

Every weekend - you get robbed. Every Monday, the bank can't explain it. After all - they'e all getting robbed. They say - it's just the number of hackers out there nowadays and they can't do anything about it. The bank next door - same thing is happening to them.

Imagine how helpless you'd feel - how frustrated!?

This was a battle and they needed a victory! They needed a champion. They needed a warrior to bring them into victory.

That's how the people of Israel felt in this time.

The Midianites and the Amalekites were oppressing the people of Israel for seven years! We may ask... "Why would God allow that?" Scripture says that the Lord let it continue because they had turned to false idols and stopped worshiping Him. Many Christians don't like that idea in their theology - that sometimes we are allowed to face

the consequences of our poor decisions and sin. God allows that sometimes to help us see our great need for Him.

We pick up in **Judges 6:11-24**

“Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.” 13 And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us?

And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” 14 And the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” 15 And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” 16 And the Lord said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”

17 And he said to him, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. 18 Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you.” And he said, “I will stay till you return.” 19 So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them.

20 And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so. 21 Then the angel of the Lord reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the cake (strange right!?). And the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight.

22 Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the Lord. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face.” 23 But the Lord said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and called it, The Lord Is Peace. To this day it still stands...” Jdg 6:11–24 ESV

What a crazy God-moment huh!? I don’t know about you, but I’ve never made God a meal then watched it be consumed by fire in front of my eyes!
WHAT GOD SEES IN US

God sees something in Gideon that Gideon doesn't see in himself. God sees a PROMISE! That's also true of you. God sees your potential, your leadership gifts, the abilities that *HE* gave you. He sees you in the future, not the problem of your present. He doesn't define you by your pain. He doesn't define you by your lowly position. He calls you "Mighty Warrior!"

God has a way of seeing amazing things in store for our future that we simply can't see for ourselves (until we worship Him - until we encounter Him in prayer)

We're often blinded by the identity of our victimhood. Sadly, we sometimes lay claim to being a perpetual victim instead of believing God to be our victor and to change our circumstances. God does something interesting in this scene with Gideon. God convinces Gideon to change his mindset before God changes the circumstances. God wants to first deal with our heart - our fears - our insecurities. He wants to see if we'll be honest and vulnerable with Him. He wants to see if we will partner with Him to do the impossible.

Couldn't God have just supernaturally wiped out the Midianites by the power of His own hand? Of course. He could've sent one angel to do the job. But He didn't. Why? In God's grace, He loves to partner with His children to bring about societal change.

Gideon doesn't only give us a picture of ourselves - how God wants to partner with us to bring about victory by worshiping and trusting in HIM but ...

This story is a picture of JESUS.

Jesus is the one among us - the human - the god-man who was hiding in plain sight - in human form - who rose up to deliver us and give us victory! He did so with miracles - suspending the laws of nature to prove that He is truly LORD and not just a mere man.

He begins by changing our view of ourselves. He re-defines us. God defines us by His promise for us, not our pain. God sees us in the future! God has written all the days of our lives in His book and He sees us standing victorious, not cowered down in a hole of fear.

Notice how God promises peace to Gideon. "Peace be to you. Do not fear. You will not die." God perceived Gideon's fear of death and drove that fear out with His love. Scripture says that God's perfect love removes all our fears. Do you have fears you need to give to God? I know I do. Sometimes I'm afraid of failing. Sometimes I'm afraid of looking stupid. Sometimes I'm afraid I'll mess things all up and when I let that fear consume my mind, I stop in my tracks. I stop doing the very things God asked me to do. Fear is a trap. Fear is a hole in the ground. Fear will steal your peace and make you ineffective. Let God break off that fear by receiving the identity that He gives you. You are a Mighty Warrior!

God knew the pain Gideon was in. God knew Gideon's name. He saw Gideon hiding the wheat and if we're perceptive, we'll see that he wasn't just "hiding the wheat" so it

wouldn't get stolen. He was hiding. He was afraid. He had fear and too much trauma to face the pain he was in.

God knows the pain you're in. God knows the questions that haunt your mind. God knows the fears you have. God will send people to give you truth - to debunk the lies that satan tempts you to believe! God loves you more than words could ever express and He has *not* forgotten you!

The question I have for you today is simple **“WHO are you agreeing with?”**

This is the question of worship. Who are you agreeing with?

Many times we agree with satan when God wants us to agree with Him.

We agree with fear when God wants us to agree with love.

We agree with worry when God wants us to agree w/ Him-trust Him He tells us in Mt 6.

We agree with cynicism when God wants us to believe the best - of others - even of ourselves!

WHO are you agreeing with?

Gideon had a choice here - agree with the enemy and agree with the rest of his family - that they would continue to be defeated OR agree with the angel that promising a brighter future - a victory!

This is the POWER of worship! Why is worship so powerful? What happens when we worship? Why is it that when we lift our voice and sing - when we dance and clap - when we use our vocal cords to lift up praise to Jesus - something happens? Why is that?

Because **We are agreeing with the song of victory - the song of Heaven when we worship - no wonder we feel something!**

No wonder things on earth begin to change!

When we worship, we agree with God about who He is - this is why worship and prayer go hand in hand. When Jesus taught us to pray He said “Our Father in Heaven, holy is your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.” In other words - get us to AGREE with HEAVEN.

Help us to realize the TRUTH about Heaven!

In heaven there is NO battle because JESUS has already been declared the victor!

In heaven, there is no FEAR because the LOVE of God has already been revealed!

Let's go back to our story Judges 7

God tells Gideon “The army you have is too many. I want them to know that I AM delivering you not your own strength.” So the army is trimmed from 32,000 to 300!

Not ideal **Judges 7:9-22**

⁹ That same night the Lord said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand. ¹⁰ But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with

Purah your servant. ¹¹ And you shall hear what they say, and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.” Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outposts of the armed men who were in the camp. ¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance. ¹³ When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. And he said, “Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat.” ¹⁴ And his comrade answered, “This is no other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp.”

¹⁵ As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, “Arise, for the Lord has given the host of Midian into your hand.” ¹⁶ And he divided the 300 men into three companies and put trumpets into the hands of all of them and empty jars, with torches inside the jars. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “Look at me, and do likewise. When I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do. ¹⁸ When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon.’”

Gideon Defeats Midian

¹⁹ So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch. And they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands. ²⁰ Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!” ²¹ Every man stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled. ²² When they blew the 300 trumpets, the Lord set every man’s sword against his comrade and against all the army.

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Jdg 7:9–22). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Worship is agreeing with God - declaring who He is and what He’s capable of.

Gideon is a type of JESUS remember. **Jesus is the one among us - the human - the god-man who was hiding in plain sight - in human form - who rose up to deliver us and give us victory! He did so with miracles! The enemy turned on itself. Satan thought he won when Jesus died! Jesus death was part of God’s plan! The enemy’s plans turned on itself!**

Satan’s plans to destroy you will only be used by God to refine you for greater things! Your problems and battles only set you up to see a miracle!

So what did Gideon do with this new courage?

Gideon does as the Lord commands and destroys the false idol of Baal and burns up the Asherah pole. He obeyed God but he did so "at night" because "he was afraid of his family and his men."

The more mature we become in Christ, the less fear of man we have. Scripture is clear that being afraid of what people think is paralyzing. Proverbs 29:25 "The fear of man lays a snare. But whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe."

I've had many occasions where God has tested my trust in Him. There have been many moments where He has called me out of hiding in fear - out of the wine press and onto the battlefield.

Spiritual warfare is real. Heaven and hell are real. The supernatural is real and when you worship Jesus and lift up His name, you are agreeing with Heaven and that brings victory to battles on earth!

The supernatural is more real than the earth you and I live on now and the oxygen we're breathing. All this is temporary. Angels and demons are real. We're going there this morning - are you ready? I feel GOD is going to teach us something special today if we're listening. His Spirit is speaking and I pray you're listening with an open heart.

Worship IS spiritual warfare and worship brings victory!

Spiritual warfare in the heavenliness happens before warfare on earth.

2 Cor 10:3-7

"³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. ⁷ Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we."

REMINDE YOURSELF of CHRIST'S VICTORY to RENEW your MIND! REMIND!

You and I are in a spiritual battle and at times we feel like we are losing - in those times remember that worship is the key to victory.

The weapons we have been given are not "carnal" Not temporary or earthy. Quit taking a knife to a gun fight.

God has given you the Holy Spirit. God has given you discernment - it's a promise for every believer. God has given you the ministry of prayer. God has given you His Word.

Take this issue you have at work OR at home and take it before the Lord. Tear down Satan's stronghold in PRAYER and WORSHIP!
How do we do that? We take every thought captive that doesn't honor Christ - even OUR OWN - and we repent of disobedience in our life - and we forgive the person who is offending us or attacking us and we ask God "What is the TRUTH in this matter? What is it you want me to know or learn in this?"
Then REMIND YOURSELF that you are IN CHRIST!

Worship and prayer is agreeing with God. You can do that in singing. In dancing. In Bowing. In meditation on His Word. In Declaring out loud His Word. All this is worship. Obedience to God is worship.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. Skip down to 2 Cor 5:16

¹⁶ "From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh."

WHO are you agreeing with? Satan's view of someone or God's view of them?

Some of you think that lady at work is just a terrible person - OR there's a spiritual battle happening.
Some of you think she's just a "Karen" always trying to be difficult. And maybe you're written her off.
Has God written her off?
Maybe that's an opportunity God has given

WHO are you agreeing with? Turn to **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

¹⁴ ...For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

**"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.**

**¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,**

**¹⁸ and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,**

says the Lord Almighty.”

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (2 Co 6:14–18). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

I know is speaking today because as I was reading this passage I already had this question down as my main point for the day - the main point of the sermon is a question - who are you agreeing with? Agreeing with GOD brings worship to His Name.

As I'm reading more I see this passage we just read.

I heard the Lord say loud and clear “This is why some of them don't have victory in their life. They agree with me on Sunday, then agree with the devil during the week.”

Listen, you won't have victory in your life if you agree with God on Sunday (worship and value holiness so as to give Him glory) and then agree with satan on Wednesday, putting selfish desires above your desire to be wholly His.

Can I say this more simply...

Worship doesn't bring the victory if it's only once a week and insincere.

Worship, like Will said last week, is a life, it's not a song you sing. WORSHIP is who we are and what we do - we live now to glorify God. The good news is that we don't do that alone! His Spirit helps us. His grace enables us for godly living. We have no excuse. When we are tempted, we are always given a way out” scripture says. So when you are tempted to sin from now on - don't think “will this make God angry?” Instead, think “Will this bring God worship?”

Does the way I'm acting toward my spouse bring worship and glory to the name of Jesus? Does the way I'm thinking and acting towards my boss bring glory to the name of Jesus? Do I see them how God does? Am I agreeing with GOD regarding my spouse, my boss, neighbor...?

I have an important question for you today.

Who are you agreeing with? *Acts 16:19-40

We're going to talk about the voice - the power of your speech. The power of your tongue.

Scripture says that the power of life and death are in the tongue.

Now are you getting an idea as to why WORSHIP is so important?!

Worship is not only our response to God it is our declaration of agreement with God. Interestingly enough, God asks us to partner with Him to bring victory on the earth!

they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. ²⁰ And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. ²¹ They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³ And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴ Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

PAUL breaks out of prison by the angel - The Philippian Jailer Converted

Acts 16:19-40

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. ³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. ³⁵ But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." ³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to them,

"They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." ³⁸ The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. ³⁹ So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

Paul and Silas, his ministry partner, are worshiping IN PRISON!

Sometimes the most powerful worship you can bring to Jesus is when you don't feel like it!

There are weeks you feel run down!
There are times when it's NOT going well at work.
It's not going well at home.
Your kids are acting crazy.
Your spouse doesn't understand you.
You're fighting more and more and you are asking God for help - but it seems help is delayed. SO what then?
Do you stop agreeing with GOD? Do you stop agreeing with the truth that HE IS good and that He DOES have good things for you and for your marriage and for your future? NO! You don't stop worshiping!
You worship EVEN LOUDER!

You're in prison? Sing some more!
You're accused of things you didn't do?
Sing some more!
Your best friends betray you and say terrible things about you?
Sing and WORSHIP LOUDER!

Why?

Worship brings victory! THIS IS WHY we worship!
We worship not only because Jesus is simply worthy of it. God commands us to worship because it brings us into agreement with the truth of heaven and that agreement brings victory on the earth!

Paul is delivered from prison by an angel
AFTER HE WORSHIPS. Worship brings victory!

For those of you that are agreeing with the devil throughout the week, letting yourself sin and ignoring the Holy Spirit's voice,
I want to call some of you to repentance today. Repentance is the first act of worship. I want to tell you that if you don't repent, there are people, in addition to you, that won't experience victory!

Your repentance can bring victory to not only you but to your family, today!
2 Co 7:10

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Closing Songs: in **Jordan joins in on handheld mic to lead**
See A Victory then Break Every Chain then Mighty Warrior.
... Raise A Hallelujah