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Gatekeepers: The Giant Killer Edition

STUDY GUIDE

Lesson 3: Weaponized Worship

Welcome to the third installment of Gatekeepers: The Giant Killer Edition! Last month we dove deeper into the nature of God's Word and how by employing His Word through our words, relying on His promises, is a weapon that causes the enemy great pain. In the process, we looked closely at the Promises of God and how taking them to heart, wielding them against the wiles of the enemy and even the objections of the natural's 'reason' empowers us to do more than we can do, reach higher than we can reach and stand in our gates doing more good than we can dream.

In this installment, we're going to look at yet another weapon of warfare that we tend to 'religionize' that God has given to us for the purpose of conquest against an enemy bent on our destruction: Worship. In the next three weeks we'll dive deeper into worship. In the process, you will learn to wield worship for effect in ways you may never have considered before.

Caution: The natural man in you is going to try to tell you that what we're going to discuss in this teaching is foolishness. The natural man needs you to believe that so that he can divorce the Power from the Word. So, as you dive into this study, pay attention closely to which voice you're listening...the natural or the Spiritual. How do you know the difference? The natural voice will contradict and water down God's word. The Spiritual won't.

Week One: The Positions of Worship?

The style of worship differs greatly from church to church, each changing over time. In the Bible, there are a few positions associated with worship that have stood the test of time. At least the positions have. But it is not clear that the purposes for those positions in worship have stayed true to God's plan. So, let's start there. Read the following Scriptures and identify the physical aspects related to worship. Then we'll look into whether we have religionized these positions when God intended for them to have more power than that in our lives.

Scripture: Exodus 34:8

1. Position? _____

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20:18

2. Position? _____

Scripture: Romans 14:11, Philippians 2:10

3. Position? _____

Scripture: I Corinthians 14:25

4. Position? _____

Thought Question: What do these four positions of worship suggest?

Now, look at this position of worship: 1 Timothy 2:8

1. Position? _____

2. What is different about this position of worship compared to the first three?

3. Note: the word “lift” is literally to hoist a sail into the wind. What insight into this position of worship might this picture give us?

4. What clues might these scriptures give us about the power of this position?

a. Acts 8:17 _____

b. Acts 19:6 _____

5. Read Exodus 17:8-13

a. How might this position of worship and prayer be different from the first three? Could there be more to it? Have we religionized something God designed to be a weapon of power?

b. Does the conclusion you’re drawing seem believable or foolishness? Keep 1 Corinthians 2:14 in mind and then ask yourself, “Is the conclusion supported by God’s Word?” Be prepared to discuss...

Week Two: What Constitutes Worship?

The answer to this question has troubled the church for some millennia. Differences over worship content, style and more have split churches and divided believers over and over again. It is not the purpose of this study to determine what kind of worship is right or wrong. It is the purpose of this study to answer the basic question: Just what is worship? How is it expressed? What is involved?

Scripture: 2 Kings 17:36 _____

Scripture: I Chronicles 16:29 _____

Scripture: Psalm 5:7 _____

Scripture: Psalm 29:2 _____

Scripture: Psalm 95:6 _____

Scripture: Jeremiah 7:2 (Where?) _____

Scripture: Matthew 4:10 _____

Scripture: John 4:24 _____

This is by no means a comprehensive list of what makes up worship. But, based on this summary, wrapping in the first week's study, what are your thoughts on what might be the difference between religionized worship and weaponized worship?

Assignment: Lay out items that represent areas in your life where you need help. It could be your finances, your family, your marriage, your health, your needs, your wants...whatever you feel you need God to engage. Then, with hands consciously raised as weapons to engage the flow of the Spirit's power, rebuking the enemy in Jesus' name while praying over each area, praise God for his response based on his Word and his promises (refer to last month's study). Keep these items displayed and continue this process. Keeping your faith in God rather than specific outcomes, because he tends to have better ideas than we do, record your thoughts and experiences below:

Week Three: Let's Worship...

We've seen that worship is both an expression of humility in the face of God's power as well as an expression of God's power through us. It is no wonder that the heroes of faith had this one thing in common: They were worshippers.

This week we're going to take a bit of a departure from the normal style of this study. This will be more self-directed. To that end, there are only two assignments. It is hoped that you'll do these two things and then be ready to discuss them at the next study. Perhaps that get together will turn into a time of worship that takes back ground and demolishes Hell's gates!

Assignment #1: Read Hebrews 11 and record your thoughts about faith and worship.

Assignment #2: David was a warrior worshipper. Read the book of Psalms. It is a long book, but read as much as you can and record any insights into faith and worship that you have, incorporating them into your personal worship.

Next month: We tie it all together and discover our Weaponized Walk!