

Thanksgiving at Midnight

Midnight could mean more than just the middle of the night. It is also the most darkness time. It is dark. This is a time when things aren't going well. This is a reference to hard times, difficult times. Many things happen at Midnight. We need to choose what we will do at the midnight hour of our lives.

Example:

- a) Exodus 12:29 "And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. "
- b) 1 Kings 3:20 And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

Although midnight could be a rough and difficult time of our lives, we can turn things around by the response and attitude we employ towards it. Some will complain through midnight, while some praise and give thanks.

It is easier to complain during midnight than to rejoice and give thanks.

1. In everything give thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

- a) Giving thanks is the will of God, not everything.

- b) We are to give thanks to **IN** everything, not **FOR** everything.
- c) Notice what 2 Corinthians 2:14 say, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."
 - i) It is God who causes us to triumph win, and conquer; not to slack, lose or be defeated. Because He causes us to triumph, we give **him** thanks.

2. Thanks be to God

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- a) Our thanks must be unto God, not unto men. It is God who is working through people. True thanksgiving should be directed unto the Lord.
- b) It may look like it is people who are coming through for us, but the truth is and will be that it is the Lord. Thanksgiving ought to be unto God not unto men. This is not to say that we should not be thankful to people but to God above all.
- c) When we give thanks, God gives us victory as a gift.

3. At midnight

Psalm 119:62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

- a) If it is midnight in your life, arise for it is time to give thanks.
- b) This is stressing more than just late in the night.
- c) If you are at a time of midnight, you can turn things around **by starting to give thanks to the Lord**, —not for the problems in your life, but for His goodness and faithfulness through it all.

4. Paul and Silas

Acts 16:25-26 And **at midnight** Paul and Silas **prayed, and sang praises unto God:** and the prisoners heard 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 every one's bands were loosed.

- a) When they gave thanks, the foundations of the prison were shaken.
- b) What is prison? This could refer widely to something or anything that is holding you back. It could be sickness, poverty, lack and so forth.
 - i) It is a state of confinement or captivity.
 - ii) A place of bondage. The foundations of their problems were shaken.
- c) Notice it says the prisoners heard them. Why? Because what these two did was unusual. It drew their attention. They weren't people in prison praising God. This was not the norm if anything.

5. Sing O barren

Isaiah 54:1 Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.

- a) Are you barren? Is your situation a midnight?
 - i) Sing. Break forth into singing!
 - ii) Give thanks!

6. Earth yield her increase

Psalms 67:5-7 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. [6] Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. [7] God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

- a) One of the reasons we aren't seeing fruitfulness in our lives is because we aren't giving thanks.

- b) Giving thanks releases the power that causes the earth to increase. As we praise the Lord, increase will come.
- c) However, we should be careful not to have a heart of praising God for increase.
 - i) Everything else is a byproduct, not the praise not a means to it.
 - ii) Thanksgiving does not manipulate nor twist God's hands.

7. Daniel

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

- a) Although this was still daytime, it was midnight for Daniel. His life was on the line, yet he gave thanks.
- b) Giving thanks played a major role as one of the keys to his victory.

8. Tongues for thanksgiving

1 Corinthians 14:15-17 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. [16] Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? [17] For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

- a) One of the best forms of thanksgiving is praying in tongues. The Word says we give thanks well.

9. King Jehoshaphat

2 Chronicles 20:18-23 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord. [19] And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up

to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high. [20] And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. [21] And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord ; for his mercy endureth for ever. [22] And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. [23] For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them : and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

- a) Some might be thinking that it is not for today to see thanksgiving and/or praise produce these results. If you do not believe it, it won't work for you.
- b) Praising and Thanksgiving unto the Lord is much more powerful and strong than an army or any intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- c) This strategy employed in this place could have been totally different. It could have been a military approach, but it was a praise and thanksgiving approach.
- d) Hardly would military experts have encouraged or advised the king and/or president to proceed this way.
 - i) This approach would have been considered dumb and irrational, yet it produced the best results without losing a single life of the children of Israel.
- e) We must be led. The most apparent answer may not be the right approach.
 - i) God has multiple ways of killing a rat!

10. Thanksgiving and praise = Strength

Psalm 8:2 "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou **ordained strength** because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger."

- a) Matthew 21:16 "And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast **perfected praise**?"
- b) Notice the commentary of the Holy Spirit through Jesus. Jesus through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit quoted and **interchangeably** used "**ordained strength**" with "**perfected praise**."
- c) This would mean that:
- i) Praise is strength.
 - As we praise the Lord, we release strength into our lives.
 - ii) The Joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).
 - iii) Like praise, joy is also strength. Joy will still (quiet) the enemy and the avenger.
 - As we praise the Lord, we enter into joy and this stills the enemy.

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