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THE UNDILUTED, FULL STRENGTH, THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES
with enough power to...

- **cleanse from all sin**
 - **set us free from all bondage**
 - **break all the power of the enemy over us**
 - **restore us to total spiritual health**
 - **develop immunity to all last-day deceptions**
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#61 – The Worship Wars

Has anyone in your church been engaged in a worship war lately? What was the battle about? Guitar vs. organ? Contemporary songs vs. traditional hymns? The Doxology or “Majesty”? Singing from off a screen vs. using the hymnal? Some very sincere persons once suggested that singing lyrics from off a screen was a dangerous practice, because unless one’s hands were occupied holding a hymnal they might go up in the air (a practice which, though entirely Scriptural, was not in accord with the traditions of their denomination). In an attempt to describe the futility of some of these wars a friend of mine once wrote a song entitled, *Shoot your own side first!*

The great controversy is all about worship. But how tragic that worship itself has in some places become a great controversy between believers. So instead of worship being an act warfare against our enemy, Satan, worship has become an act of aggression against fellow-Christians.

Worshipful and heartfelt praise is a most potent weapon against Satan. He hates worship because it reminds him about the exalted position he once occupied as the leader of the heavenly choirs. As we in worship praise God for the benefits of Christ’s cross, we are at the same time reminding Satan about his defeat. Keep reminding him, and he will flee because he does not want to be reminded of this defeat.

In worship we engage in warfare in heavenly places, and as we in praise and adoration exalt and magnify our great God, there will be a shift in the balance of power in heavenly places. When we in worship sing praises to God and the Lamb we are in reality joining with the witnesses in heaven’s courtroom who continually engage in worship, singing, “*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!*” (Revelation 5:11). Praise and worship, coming from the hearts of God’s very own children, contain the elements of truth by which

we defeat Satan now. Worshipful praise is the means by which we extend Christ's kingdom into areas where He is not currently ruling.

Do you want the gloom and oppression in your life to flee? Then start praising God, for He *inhabits the praises of His people* (Psalm 22:3). The NIV states that God is *enthroned* on the praises of His people. And where God is enthroned He rules, and where He rules He places all things in subjection under His feet. Our heavenly Father has actually deputized us for this offensive warfare, and His promise is that *"the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it"* (Matthew 16:18,19). When we enter into such prayer and praise as duly deputized "priests and kings" we have the authority, the keys, to bind and to loose to set captives free (Matthew 16:18,19). Remember how a prayer meeting at the house of Rhoda set the stage for Peter's release from prison (Acts 12).

"Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song...let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishment on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgment – This honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord"
(Psalm 149).

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