

# New Life Family Matters

## March 2008

Praise and Worship strengthens our faith / our trust in the Lord.

*"I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. <sup>2</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.*

*He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.*

*<sup>3</sup>The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. <sup>4</sup>Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea.*

*<sup>5</sup>The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone."*

Ex 15:1-5 NIV

Our Sunday teaching series has been focusing our hearts upon the Lord's greatness by studying the life of the nation of Israel during the time of their rescue from Egypt to the time of their entrance into the land of Promise. Their history was written down for us as

*"warning markers — DANGER! ...so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel — they at the beginning, we at the end — and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were. 1 Cor 10:11-12 TM*

Time and time again, Israel allowed circumstances to have their hearts rather than to worship the Lord and connect their hearts with His. Worship and praise is for our benefit -not the Lord's. It is an amazing gift that brings us into closer relationship with Him. Worship and praise focuses our attention upon Him and His power and love for us. It puts things in perspective, relieves fear and worry with hope and peace. Israel had just experienced God's amazing, undeserved rescue from a life of slavery in Egypt by the miracle of being able to "pass-through" the Red Sea. God parted the waters allowing them to walk on the sea bed away from Pharaoh's army. Now on the opposite shoreline, they looked back and worshipped the Lord through song. Through worshipping the Lord in song, their focus for life is now upon the Lord and His resources. Hope rises in our hearts through the power of worship. Worship and praise is not just for the times when every thing is going our way, but rather, worship becomes a powerful agent of rescue and deliverance. Here is what David wrote when he too was facing some tough circumstances.

*"When I am afraid, I will trust in you. <sup>4</sup>In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? Ps 56:3-4 NIV*

*"But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. <sup>15</sup>My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation all day long, though I know not its measure. <sup>16</sup>I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, O Sovereign LORD; I will proclaim your righteousness, yours alone. Ps 71:14-16 NIV*

As people living at the end of the ages, worship is a powerful gift to us that "recalls His mighty acts of rescue," His powerful love for us and becomes an agent of deliverance. As we learn this principle of "faith-filled" living and put it into practice while in the midst of our pressing circumstances, we will come to experience our God's Rulership over our circumstances. We will learn the lessons that Israel teaches us to avoid. When we choose to worship, our focus becomes fastened upon His Faithfulness and His great desire for us to know His loving heart, and not upon our strength or ability to provide or protect ourselves. Worship is one of the best ways to declare, "Yes, I believe!" Join me in declaring Israel's song of deliverance,

*"The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."*

Pastor Dave