

The Power of Praise and Worship

God has given each of us a powerful weapon: praise and worship. This is a mighty tool that can be utilized by parents who have children with autism, Asperger's and obsessive-compulsive Disorder. Praise and worship has the ability to shift and remove every characteristic of these conditions. God reminds us in Exodus 23:25 that when we serve Him, He will bless our bread and water and take sickness away from among us.

One of the very first things I experienced when I walked into the church of Jesus Christ was the power of the presence of God in praise and worship. When this tool is invoked, the peace of God washes over those who worship, and some dramatic changes take place.

We see an irrefutable example of this with Saul, the first king of Judah. After Saul rejected the divine instructions of the Lord, God's presence departed from him, and an evil spirit then attached itself to Saul and tormented him. But when young David played his music in the presence of the king, the evil spirit left, giving Saul the relief he so needed (1 Sam 16:14-23).

When God created mankind, He had but one intent: He wanted adoration. He called us to worship Him from the very beginning. Everything we do in life carries an element of faith. Putting our keys in the ignition of our car takes a certain level of faith. It even takes a certain level of faith when it comes to praise and worship.

I recently shared this concept with a mother who told me her son was uncontrollable and she didn't know what to do. She began playing soft worship music at a low decibel around her

son. Some time went by, and she came to me crying with joy over the change she had seen in her son. She said, "Pastor Reg, playing praise and worship really works. After five days, my son was humming to the worship music, and after 10 days, he began to sing a line from a song. And 15 days later, he was singing a couple of lines."

The Almighty God we serve inhabits the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3). I encourage you to trust that God can bring a change in your child's life through the power of praise and worship. He is in the business of healing, so try playing the music gently, wherever you are, and see what He does.

Over the years, I have come across a lot of children with autism, Asperger's and obsessive-compulsive disorder who do not like to hear any form of music, including worship. Because of their sensitivity to noise, many of these children have come into our church wearing earmuffs. Praise God that after being healed, they no longer wear earmuffs and enjoy praising and worshipping Him. If you want to see that same change in your child's life, I encourage you to start playing some soothing worship music quietly, in the background, and see what God will do.

For many years, I had been praying for a young child who was nonverbal autistic. His parents had always played praise and worship music around him, and God healed him in a powerful way at the age of 6. After that, he started to speak. This young man not only finished primary school but recently finished high school and was accepted into a polytechnic college to study engineering. This is the same wonderful young man whose parents came to see me asking, "Will our son ever talk, and will he ever be able to go to school?" What an awesome God we serve!

Look at the story of King Jehoshaphat, whose kingdom was being invaded. The Lord clearly said to him in 2 Chronicles 20:15, "Pay attention all Judah, and those dwelling in Jerusalem, and

King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not fear, nor be dismayed because of this great army, for the battle is not yours, but God's.'"

This passage reminds us that no matter what circumstances surround us, every battle belongs to God, and that includes the battle for your child's freedom from autism, Asperger's or obsessive-compulsive disorder. Let us partner with God as intercessors for the kingdom of heaven to bring about this healing in your child's life.

We are hearing many wonderful testimonies of healing through our Autism Overturned private group and our website. Let me encourage you: If God healed me, why wouldn't He heal your child?

You are welcome to join my private Facebook group called "Autism Overturned." Post a picture of your child, and I will start to pray for them. When you have joined the group, let me know if you would like a free prayer cloth to place in your child's pillowcase. In addition, check out my Autism Overturned podcast on the Charisma Podcast Network.

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