

“Father, I Thank You.”

*<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.” (John 11: 41)*

It is difficult, at times, to give thanks when dealing with some of life’s challenges. During troubled times, there are so many negative feelings and thoughts that can flood our minds: anger, sorrow, guilt, fear, hopelessness, disappointment, hate, abandonment and so on. With all these negative thoughts and emotions, there is little or no room in our hearts to praise and give thanks unto God. This is because we keep our eyes fixed on the problems and don’t see beyond them. Praise and thanksgiving cannot live in this toxic environment. Also, praise and thanksgiving unto God are weapons that silence the enemy! Psalm 8:2 says, *“Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”*

It is important to find the mental strength to look beyond the present situation, and to give thanks and praise unto God! Jesus did that! He was able to rise above his problems and to give thanks unto God. He thanked God for already hearing His prayer. Isn’t that amazing? This is bold faith – believing that God had already answered His prayer and turned His situation around for the better! But His senses tried to tell Him otherwise – that nothing had changed. He still saw and heard the cries of the people, and the smell reminded Him that Lazarus was still dead! Yet although things appeared the same in the natural, He knew that God had already worked a miracle in the spiritual realm. It was only a matter of time before that miracle manifested itself in His present situation. Don’t believe your senses! Let’s follow in Jesus’ step, and *“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!”*

“Heavenly Father,

*Thank You, O Lord, for what You have already done in my situation. My pain no longer suppress my praise and thanksgiving unto You! I sing praises unto You, O God, for Your goodness, love and mercy. I thank You for Your Son Jesus – my Teacher and Deliverer. I know that You have already answered my cry for help, and in spite of my circumstances, I have already received my miracle for You are a mighty God! Today, I am delivered! To God be the glory! In Jesus’ mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen.”*

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” - 1 Chronicles 16:34*