

**THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR VICTORY, STRENGTH, PEACE, RESTING PLACE**

(Gateway Community Church Opononi 13/6/04 – EKB)

*Ac 16:25-33, Neh 8:10, 2Chr 20:20-22.*

1. I have visited Arusha, Tanzania for three years, 2001, 2003, 2004, to minister the Word to leaders.
2. **In 2001**, I had a great struggle to be able to sleep. At times I only had one and a half hours sleep. I emailed home for prayer and my sleep gradually improved.
3. In 2003 I had the same struggles. Same emails!
4. It seems as though there are spiritual influences in the area that hinder some people sleeping
5. I spent a lot of time warring against the powers of darkness, with the Word and in the Spirit. *Eph 6:10-13*. Still sending emails!
6. **In 2003** I taught the leaders on the Levitical Priesthood. I came to *Ex 29:38-43*, which teaches about the **morning and evening sacrifice**, for each day. The Lamb = Jesus; Flour = God’s Word; Oil = anointing; Wine = Life of Christ within. It says, “There God will meet with you and speak to you” *v42*.
7. God said to me, “You are arising early to wait on Me, and offer the morning sacrifice, but you need to also wait on Me and offer the **evening sacrifice of worship, joy, thanksgiving, praise, truth, rejoicing and gladness of heart** before you go to bed.
8. So I spent about thirty minutes praising, thanking, and rejoicing, in the Lord before I went to bed.
9. **There was a big change**. Now I could sleep much better. There was peace – I was not lying hour after hour unable to sleep. Each day it improved until I was sleeping right through the night. Thank God for revealing His answer.
10. **This is how I praised God. I praised God for Who He is, for His love, truth, righteousness, authority and power. In my mind I had the outline below. I used this to praise the Lord.**

**Mark – the Ox, Rev 4:7**

**God’s love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, mercy, compassion, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, temperance, healing, salvation, redemption. *Gal 5:22,23*.

**Luke - The Man**  
**God’s truth**, wisdom revelation, knowledge, understanding, faith

God as the uncreated One, Creator, Sustainer, All powerful, All knowing, Omnipresent, unchanging, Eternal, no beginning, no ending Alpha and Omega

**The Eagle – John, Rev 4:7**  
**God’s righteousness**, justice purity, holiness  
God’s anointing, His life in us, His grace, blessing

**Matthew – the Lion, Rev 4:7**

**God’s authority and power**  
Rule, reign, majesty, government, control, power, ability, might, strength, victory, defeat of evil, overruling all, God’s defeat of sin, Satan and the world. The victory of Calvary and the Resurrection, *Eph 1:19-23*.

11. **In 2004**, God showed me that when I was praising the Lord, I was acting on *Ps 24:7-9*. It says, “Lift up your heads O you gates, and be lifted up you everlasting doors and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads (as before) Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of armies, He is the King of Glory”.
12. As I waited on God to worship, praise and thank Him, **I was lifting up the gates and doors of faith, truth, righteousness**, blessing, joy, praise, thanksgiving, rejoicing. As I did **the King of glory came in, who is strong and mighty, and mighty in battle. He came in and totally defeated the enemy. He is the Lord of Armies.**
13. **The Battle is the Lord’s**, *2Chr 20:15, 1Sam 17:47*. **The Lord fights for us**, *Ex 14:14, 2Chr 20:17*.
14. **Seek the Lord in the morning and rejoice in Him.** *Ps 63:1-8*.
15. **At the going down of the sun, in the evening, rejoice in God** and magnify Him. *Ps 55:17*.
16. **Prioritise God into your day**. Put Him first and His blessings will fall on you in abundance, *Jn 10:10*.
17. **Continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God**, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His Name, *Heb 13:15*.
18. Do not let God be squeezed out of your day. **Put Him first**.
19. As you come in the morning and evening to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanks to God, **He will meet with you and speak to you**, *Ex 29:42*. **This is where you hear God speaking. This is where He will come to you and He will defeat your enemies.**