REBUILDING BROKEN LIVES

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ISAIAH 61:1-3

ISAIAH 61:1-3, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH GOOD TIDINGS TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES, AND THE OPENING OF THE PRISON TO THOSE WHO ARE BOUND; TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD, AND THE DAY OF VENGEANCE OF OUR GOD; TO COMFORT ALL WHO MOURN, TO CONSOLE THOSE WHO MOURN IN ZION, TO GIVE THEM BEAUTY FOR ASHES, THE OIL OF JOY FOR MOURNING, THE **GARMENT OF PRAISE FOR THE SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS; THAT THEY** MAY BE CALLED TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE PLANTING OF THE LORD, THAT HE MAY BE GLORIFIED.

BEAUTY FOR ASHES

THEGARMENT OF PRAISE FOR THE SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS

THE SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS ANY INTENSE NEGATIVE FEELING THAT CHALLENGES OUR FAITH AND WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT GOD.

THE "SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS" "SPIRIT OF DESPAIR," "A FAINT SPIRIT," "A SUFFERING SPIRIT."

PROVERBS 12:25, HEAVINESS IN THE HEART OF MAN MAKES IT STOOP, BUT A GOOD WORD MAKES IT GLAD.

PROVERBS 10:1, A WISE SON MAKETH A GLAD FATHER: BUT A FOOLISH SON IS THE HEAVINESS OF HIS MOTHER.

WHILE THE SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS DISCONNECTS, PRAISE CONNECTS.

THE "GARMENT OF PRAISE"

THE "GARMENT OF PRAISE" IS AN EXPRESSION THAT DESCRIBES A COVERING OR MANTLE OF WORSHIP AND REJOICING LAID UPON BELIEVERS, REPLACING **HEAVINESS OR SORROW WITH** JOYFUL ADORATION OF GOD.

THE GARMENT OF PRAISE IS A SPIRITUAL GARMENT THAT YOU PUT ON TO COVER YOUR SPIRIT.

ISAIAH 61:10, I DELIGHT GREATLY IN THE LORD; MY SOUL REJOICES IN MY GOD, FOR HE HAS CLOTHED ME WITH GARMENTS OF SALVATION, AND ARRAYED ME IN A ROBE OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS...

PSALM 43:5, WHY ARE YOU DISCOURAGED, MY SOUL? WHY ARE YOU SO RESTLESS? PUT YOUR HOPE IN GOD, BECAUSE I WILL STILL PRAISE HIM. HE IS MY SAVIOR AND MY GOD.

HOW DO WE PUT ON THE GARMENT OF PRAISE WHEN WE DON'T FEEL JOYFUL?

1. WE RECOGNIZE THE TRUTH.

PSALM 8:2, THROUGH THE PRAISE OF CHILDREN AND INFANTS YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED A STRONGHOLD AGAINST YOUR ENEMIES, TO SILENCE THE FOE AND THE AVENGER.

PRAISE IS THE MEANS BY WHICH GOD SHUTS THE MOUTH OF THE ENEMY.

SHOUTS OF PRAISE, THAT DO NOT COME FROM A SINCERE HEART, DON'T HAVE ANY POWER.

2. WE MAKE A CONSCIOUS CHOICE.

HEBREWS 13:15, THROUGH JESUS, THEREFORE, LET US CONTINUALLY OFFER TO GOD A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE —THE FRUIT OF LIPS THAT OPENLY PROFESS HIS NAME.

GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN THE FRUIT OF OUR OF OUR HEART THAN THE FRUIT OF OUR LIPS.

WHY IS PRAISE SO HARD? 1. SUFFERING 2. ABUNDANCE 3. MUNDANITY

HABAKKUK 3:17-18, THOUGH THE FIG TREE SHOULD NOT BLOSSOM AND THERE BE NO FRUIT ON THE VINES, THOUGH THE YIELD OF THE OLIVE SHOULD FAIL, AND THE FIELDS PRODUCE NO FOOD, THOUGH THE FLOCK SHOULD BE CUT OFF FROM THE FOLD AND THERE BE NO CATTLE IN THE STALLS, YET I WILL EXULT IN THE LORD. I WILL REJOICE IN THE GOD OF MY SALVATION.