

INSPIRED WORD
January 16, 2019

PRAYER

Lord, we lift Your name on high tonight. We come here to praise You; we come here to worship You, to see You as God and know that You are the Lord, to know that You are the one who's calling us and we are not our own. We belong to the body of Christ, Your Son, God made flesh. Holy is Your name, Jesus. Help us to bring that to the world. Fill us tonight, Lord. Refresh our souls. Holy is Your name, Jesus.

PRAYER

Lord, no matter what the circumstances are, Your grace is with us and we can be a joyful people even in the midst of it all because of that love, because of Your holy presence. And Lord, as we look toward You tonight, give us that grace, give us that grace to take our eyes off the things of the world, off the problems that we might have come in here with, and to look to You, to look to You, to gaze into Your face, and to give You the praise and glory that You deserve. So we make that a sacrifice to You, Lord. Let's open our hearts. Lord, pour forth Your grace on us tonight, Your people gathered here. Come, Holy Spirit, come, Holy Spirit, come. Enable us to enter into true worship, true praise from the depths of our being, from our hearts. Glory to You.

SENSE / EXHORTATION

In that last song it said that Jesus reaches His hands toward ours and I was thinking about how, as a parent, when we see trouble coming, like a large crowd or just a busy street, and we have a child with us, we grab their hand. We don't give them a choice, you know; we grasp their hand very firmly to lead them out of that trouble. But Jesus told me, or what I think is, He doesn't grasp our hand like that but He always has it reaching down. We have to be intentional and reach up. I'm reaching my hand to You. So when there's times of trouble, know that His hand is always there. But if you want Him to help guide you out of that trouble, you have to reach yours up, be intentional and reach for Him.

PRAYER

Yes, help us to remember, Lord, to do that, for You are with us always. Glory to You.

CONFIRMATION

This next song is real confirmation of that. Sometimes when we put together a list, we're not sure how it's all coming together. These seem a little disjointed tonight, Lord, and He's just like, "I got it. I got it." So "Marvelous Light" because we're reaching into the marvelous light.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Psalm 136:1-14: *O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever. O give thanks to the God of gods, for his mercy endures for ever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his mercy endures for ever. To him alone who does great wonders, for his mercy endures for ever. To him who by wisdom made the heavens, for his mercy endures for ever. To him who laid out the earth above the waters, for his mercy endures for ever. To him who made great lights, for his mercy endures for ever. The sun to rule by day, for his mercy endures for ever; the moon and stars to rule by night, for his mercy endures for ever. To him who struck Egypt and their first-born, for his mercy endures for ever; and brought out Israel from among them, for his mercy endures for ever. With a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his mercy endures for ever. To him who divided the Red Sea in two, for his mercy endures for ever; and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his mercy endures for ever.* Father, we thank You and praise You and exalt Your holy name, for Your mercy endures forever. Your mercy endures forever. O Lord of lords, O King of kings, halleluiah to the Lamb, the holy risen Lamb. Righteous are You, O Lord, righteous and true. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for Your mercy, Your mercy endures forever.

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

Isn't it wonderful having the Lord tell us in songs? And we look at the consistency of the Bible and both the Old Testament and the New Testament, and we talk about turning our heart and lives over to God because His mercy endures forever. And I looked up some Bible verses about how God's word is clear that the condition of our heart is actually critical in our walk with the Lord. In **Matthew 6:21**, it says: *For where your treasure is, there your heart is also.* In **Proverbs 3:5**, it says: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.* In **Proverbs 4:23**: *Above all else, guard your heart for everything you do flows from it.* And I can go. I mean, there are so many verses here about turning our heart and mind over to God. So let's give praise and glory to God our Father who loves us so much and wants to take care of us in our everyday lives so that we can maintain our walk with God no matter what garbage the world throws at us, that we keep our heart and our mind on the Lord God Almighty.

SHARING

I was walking the other day on my way to work and why this came to mind, I don't know. But I was thinking about that we are told we are adopted sons and daughters of God. And I started thinking about that and tried to conceive what that really means, what that all entails, and try to understand it. And I finally... it's kind of like thinking about eternity. I wasn't... it was just awesome. I couldn't handle it. Son or daughter of God? Adopted sons and daughters of God? It's incredible! And I prayed that I could understand just one-tenth of what that means.

SCRIPTURE

His consistency... The Lord is consistent in His mercy. You know, anytime anybody appealed to Jesus for mercy, He gave it. This is from **Zechariah 3** at the time of the Babylonian captivity. Seventy years the people have been in punishment, the remnant of all that was left. But in this passage, the high priest, Joshua... This is Zechariah talking about an angel **(1-7)**: *Then he showed me Joshua, the high priest, standing before the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with rich apparel. And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments; and the angel of the Lord was standing by. And the angel of the Lord enjoined Joshua, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts.* The point is that we come into His presence and we're met with mercy.

WORD OF WISDOM

Let's sing a song about that mercy and grace, because really, grace is often so tied... the active version of mercy is grace. Mercy is when we're given a pass; we're given what we don't deserve. Grace is when we're given a gift that we don't deserve. And they work together, hand and glove. So let's acknowledge that the Lord's grace is enough for us.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to open our hearts now to that love and mercy that's poured forth here tonight, right here, right now. Lord, Your grace is enough in all circumstances in life outside of this place and in our families and in our workplaces and in the neighborhood. But Your grace is enough for us right here in this circumstance, right here, right now. We thank You for it; we thank You for Your holy presence.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

There was a centurion who asked Jesus to heal his servant. And Jesus said he would come, and the centurion actually said, "Don't come, don't come. I'm not worthy for you to come. Just say the word and he'll be healed" (**Matthew 8:5-13**). And Jesus said, "Okay. Nowhere have I seen as much faith." But it's that line: I believe, help my unbelief. And tonight, we believe, Lord. We give You that gift of belief, but help our unbelief. Heal the spots that are broken, where the belief is leaking out through a crack in our hearts. Patch it up, Lord God; give us a new heart of flesh, not of stone, a heart that can't leak out, but that faith will be strong and pounding and beating within us. We believe in the God of resurrection, the God who stepped out of eternity

and into time and out of time and into our hearts. Lord, we do believe; help our unbelief. Heal our unbelief.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

And when we pray and sing those words “we believe,” it’s so much more than just an intellectual exercise or an intellectual assent. That calls us to trust, that belief calls us to trust, to trust in the Father, to trust in the Son, to trust in the Holy Spirit, to trust in the truth that Jesus told us, to trust with all our heart and all our soul, not just in our minds but with every part of us. Lord, give us that grace to trust here in this place tonight, to not only believe with our minds but to trust with our hearts that You are here, that You call us, that Your Spirit is here. We yearn to see Your face in this place, God. We yearn to come close to You, yearn to come close to You. Come, Holy Spirit, come. And we know when we ask, You come. We know that, not just with our minds but with our hearts. So come, come into this temple tonight, Lord, the temple of this church and the temple of our hearts. Come!

SCRIPTURE

From **Ephesians 3:14-21**: *For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives his name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen me with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints to grasp how wide and how long and how high and deep is the love of Christ and to know his love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to the measure with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

This is from Luke **10:21-24** (Hymn of Praise): *At the moment Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I offer you praise, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden from the learned and the clever, and you have revealed to the nurse of children. Yes, Father, you have graciously willed it so. Everything has been given over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.” Then turning to his disciples, he said to them privately, “Blest are the eyes that see what you see. I tell you, many prophets and kings wished to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”*

IMAGE / SENSE

Throughout the prayer meeting I’ve had this image of a couple dancing, like when couples dance those romantic ballads and the girl gets tossed up into the air and he just catches her right in his arm, just where he’s supposed to be. And I almost felt like the Lord was just saying,

“I wish you would dance with me. I wish you would dance with me, and that you would trust me, that you would run into my arms and let me throw you up and with joy and exhilaration feel that rush of air, the joy of that love just bringing you up into the clouds. And as you come back down, you’re trusting and you’re knowing that I’m going to catch you, and that we’re going to continue to dance.”

CONFIRMATION

And I what I heard just confirms that; it goes right along with it. What I heard God saying is, “Dance to the rhythm of my heart.”

MESSAGE IN TOUNGUES

INTERPRETATION

I embrace each of you tenderly with my love.

INTERPRETATION

I extend my hand down to you. Reach up and take it. I am with you in all times of your life. I rejoice with you in the joy. I grieve with you in the sorrow. In every part of your life I want to be with you and share with you. Reach up, take my hand. I extend love and mercy. Sometimes I pull you in a dance. I am the Lord your God. You are my sons and daughters. Did you hear that? Sons and daughters. I love you; I extend my hand toward you. Take it.

INTERPRETATION

I am teaching you my way. Learn it.

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for those words of love, those words of encouragement, those words of hope. Let them be in our hearts and take root there.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

The Lord has given someone a song that the Lord wants to sing back to us, as we have been singing to Him. I believe He has given someone a song, and it may not be in English.

SCRIPTURE

This is from **Psalms 130:7-8** that occurred to me earlier (sung): *O Israel, trust in the Lord. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins, from all his sins.*

MESSAGE IN TONGUES

EXHORTATION

Praise the Lord, halleluiah (repeated in song).

PRAYER

Lord, we give You praise and thanks for Your holy presence here, for Your word, Your action, Your grace poured forth.