

## INSPIRED WORD

### January 29, 2020

#### REVIEW OF THE INSPIRED WORD

There are four sections in this inspired word: (1) The Lord asks us to give Him the praise due His name, (2) The Lord asks us to come close, (3) The Lord wants to heal and restore all of our circumstances, and (4) The Lord asks us to share how He loves us. So, we're going to start with praise as we always do. Praise transforms us; praise opens us; praise softens our hearts; we invite His presence into ourselves with praise; and His strength clears our view. From **Revelation 22**: *"I am the root and stock of David, the bright morning star."* **2 Peter 1**: *"His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion."* **Luke 19**: *"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord."* **Psalm 11**: *"In the Lord I take refuge."* **Psalm 47**: *"All you peoples, clap your hands; shout to God with joyful cries. For the Lord, the Most High is to be feared, the great king over all the earth."* **Psalm 67**: *"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, so may your way be known upon the earth."* And there was a confirmation and a sharing about **Isaiah 6**: *"I am a man of unclean lips and the coal touched my lips."* It was God who made him worthy, who helped cleanse his heart and allowed him to give his life to God. Our response to that is, "My life is in You, my strength is in You." And then there was an image: I've been seeing this image of a big throng of people gathered. The joy of the Lord is our strength. And then the Lord says, "Come close. I want to see you." Listen for the words close, come, and open. From a prayer: You say to come close. Bring us in, Lord. Give us the grace to give You our hearts now. Bring us close, Lord. A scripture and a sense from **Psalm 95**: *Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord! Come, let us bow down and worship and kneel before the Lord, our Maker!* And the sense was when Jesus died on the cross, the curtain was torn in two, so instead of the mercy seat, there is the God of mercy Himself. And He has His hands open wide and just says, "Come." A prayer that says: Open our hearts, open our minds, open our ears. Then an exhortation: Make space for the Lord. A member shared a story of fog: On our way to church here and as we dropped down the hill from our home, we encountered really thick fog. You know, we come here in a fog sometimes, and the fog is the concerns of the day or maybe concerns for a friend, concerns for ourselves, maybe we're hurting. And we come here and we're not really prepared and we don't take the time to prepare. So we sing a song like "I Want To See You" but we're singing that song in the fog. Close your eyes right now and look into the face of God and say, "Lord, I really do want to see You. And sometimes I walk in a fog, Lord. Help me to focus myself on Your face, Lord, Help me to focus myself on Your being, Your Spirit. And: "Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb." And the sense was that that's what we're going to do. We're here to worship the Lord, and when we do that, the river of life flows right through this place, and He invites us to step into it. And a word of knowledge: I believe there's someone here that just cannot open the door to the Lord totally.

And I say to you, my beloved one, once again I knock on the door of your heart. And have no fear about being closer to the Lord. “Fear not. My grace is poured forth upon you here. Fear not. Come to me.” Lord, we lay our lives before You. Make of them what You will. Bring us closer to You. And we know the power of Your love is greater than all those things and can work through all those things for the glory of Your name. Come, Holy Spirit, draw us closer to the Lord. And once we get close to the Lord, He heals, He cleanses, He straightens our way, and He removes obstacles in all of our circumstances. And again from **Isaiah 6**: *And he touched my mouth with the coal and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.”* And from a prophecy and prayer: I call you; I call you to let go. I call you to let go; I call you to open your hearts to the new thing that I am doing. I call you to let go of fear; I call you to let go of habit; I call you to let go of comfort; I call you to open your hearts to my Spirit. Help us to release anything that prevents us from being open to You. Drop it, let it go. And there was a confirmation a week later: During the song we just sang a thought came to me – Let go of things. I hope they go away. I want them to go. And a few weeks later we had a sharing: I have really been in this place of the Lord calling and drawing me into a deeper understanding, not only who I am but who He created me to be. And so that whole process, when you make room for the Lord, that means you’ve got to cultivate, that means you’ve got to make room, that means that things you hold on to as important slip off as not being so important when the Lord starts to show you, “Hey, I want to deal with you on this. Or I want to take you deeper. But I can’t do it until you let go of (fill in the blank).” From **2 Peter 1**: *For this very reason make every effort to add to your faith goodness, and to goodness knowledge, and to knowledge self-control, and to self-control perseverance, and to perseverance godliness, and to godliness mutual affection, and to mutual affection love.* And the person who shared this said, “I love the stepping stairs of how you start off with one step, then you go to another, then you go to another step. But we can’t be afraid of what those steps look like in our lives. And a Scripture and a sense: From **Isaiah** when the captives were being freed from Babylon: When He comes as Savior, He restores and He glorifies. And glorifies is a lot bigger and a lot better than just fixing. Let’s glorify; let’s go beyond restoration. And when we look at our sins and we say, “I can’t get past this, Lord”, let Him be your Savior and take you past getting past it, to glorify it. And from a prophecy: I’m hearing: “I am bringing a climate of healing. Open your hearts and receive. I’m healing the broken-hearted, binding up your wounds.” A scripture from **Psalms 72**: *He will redeem their life from oppression and violence and precious shall their blood be in his sight.* And a prayer: Lord, only through Your power and Your Holy Spirit can we do this, where we cast aside our sorrows and embrace Your joy. From **Revelation 3**: *Listen. I am standing at the door knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you and you with me.* And the sense was: “Hearts are opening. Unsure hearts are opening to me. Open wide the doors.” And then a sharing: Listening to the songs tonight was like reaching out in faith and if you remember all the miracles that happened in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, the people did something to reach out to God. My mother always told me that you take baby steps toward

God and God makes twenty giant steps toward you. And that's how the Lord is. So Lord, we just ask that You pour forth Your grace on this place tonight, Your mercy, Your love, Your healing power, to meet all needs here tonight. O Jesus, we indeed trust in You. And then as always, the Lord asks us to share that love. We have praised Him; we have brought Him closer to us; He has cleansed us, and now we have the stories to tell. From a sharing: When we were doing the song "Let Everything That Has Breath," there was just a phrase in there that kept popping off the page at me. I felt like the Lord was saying... There's a section that says: "If we could see how much you're worth, your power, your might, your endless love, then surely we would never cease to praise." From a prayer: Lord, we ask that fire to help us move out and not to focus in, but to bring Your love where it needs to go. You've given each one of us a special life, a call on our life. And in conclusion, a prayer: Yes, Lord, the water of Your Holy Spirit, flowing through us, bringing Your love, Your truth to this world. O Lord, let us always be channels of that living water. Let us never stop the flow.

### **SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION**

Jesus did His whole ministry bringing the good news. But He did it with word and deed, deeds of power. And when He gave His Spirit to the apostles, they went out and proclaimed the good news in word and deed. One of the first places they went was to the Samaritans, and the Samaritans and the Jews weren't really good buddies a lot of the time. And so the fact that the apostle could go to the Samaritans as one of the first missions in the **Acts of the Apostles (ch. 8)** and preach the gospel, it was because he came with power and healing and saying, "The good news of freedom is here. Let me free you from your illness, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." And they were willing to listen and say, "Who is this Jesus you're talking about, because you're showing me His works?" And we are apostles and disciples as well. We're called to go out and bring that word but to bring it with power and faith, to believe that the deeds will follow when the truth is proclaimed in faith.

### **SCRIPTURE**

From **Psalms 103:1-5**: *Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name! Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your sins, and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.* And further down it continues **(8-14, 17-18)**: *The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger for ever. He does not treat us as our sins deserve, or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. For he knows how we are formed; he remembers that we are dust. But from everlasting to everlasting, the*

*Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children, with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.*

## **SHARING**

In the song "Amazing Grace" it said: "I was blind but now I see." And I told the Lord that I was blind; I didn't understand what he wanted me to do. He said, "Look into my face," and when I did, I saw His love for me, and I saw His plans for me.

## **PROPHECY**

I heard these two words: hope and expect. And it recalled to mind what I heard someone saying but the Lord brought it back to my mind, and basically He's saying to us: "When you pray, do you hope that I will answer or do you expect that I will answer? When you call to me, do you hope that I will answer or do you expect that I will answer?" And I just have this feeling that He wants us to expect, because of His great love, the one that Marilyn just talked about when she said "I'm blind" and then she looked into His face and saw all of that love. He's saying, "Not only hope in me, but expect. Be expectant that I will answer."

## **SCRIPTURE**

During Marilyn's review, several times we heard the passage "*I stand at the door and knock*" (**Revelation 3:20**) and then the scripture that's been in my head since then is Jesus saying, just sort of clearing the way of all the complications, Jesus saying, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me*" (**John 14:6**).

## **CONFIRMATION**

I'd like to confirm what Doug said. I got a simple message. It was: My way is the way. And when you think about it, when you're reading scripture, reflect on that, when the Lord says, "Follow me. My way is the way."

## **SHARING / PRAYER**

I guess the one thing that really impacted me tonight was that Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except through me." And Jesus Christ is indeed the way. There is no other way but the Lord Jesus Christ. And the Spirit of the Lord gives us life, and the Father... And Father, we just thank You, we thank You so much for Your work in our lives. Lord Jesus, we thank You for the work that You've done in our lives, and Spirit of the Living God, we pray that You will continue to work in our lives, for You are indeed the Paraclete; You are the One who comes along side us and moves us forward. And we just ask that everything, every thought, word and deed that we think, say or do would glorify You. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King above all kings, the name before whom every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## **IMAGE / PROPHECY**

I'm having this image of... it's actually more hearing of a hand knocking on a door, knocking and knocking and knocking on the door, and then the metal knocker on the center of the door knocking and knocking and knocking, the doorbell ringing and ringing and ringing. And the words that I hear are: My beloved, I am knocking at the door of your heart. But you do not answer, my beloved. Is it because you do not hear? Or do you hear and do not wish to answer? Is it because you are afraid? Is it because...?

## **CONFIRMATION / SHARING / INSPIRED TEACHING**

I have a confirmation for that. Something happened this week and I was just mulling over it but the image came back as an alternate pair to the door image. And the image is of a Christmas present that was sent and is sitting on the table unopened. And it's like why would you not open a Christmas present that someone sent to you, that they made in love and shipped across the country and it arrived at your door? But I haven't wanted to open that present because I didn't send my present to them and I felt guilty that I hadn't sent my gift so I couldn't open their gift and appreciate it. And my mom called last night and said, "Did you like it?" And I said, "I haven't opened it." And she said, "Then I'm not going to talk to you because I called to talk to you about the present. And I'll talk to you when you open it." And she hung up the phone. And it's like okay. But how often do we do that to the Lord? He's packaged a way of life that is the gift of life, and we won't follow it. And He's promised us beautiful things in His love, and we won't hear it. And like Marilyn said, we say, "Lord, help me see" but we don't open our eyes to see what He's trying to show us, because we have that guilt that says, "Well, I didn't do enough so how can I receive from the Lord?" Maybe it's one of those people... we hear God knocking, we see the present on the table, but we won't open the door because we want to pretend we're not there or we pretend it hasn't arrived yet until we get our act together. And that's not how God is. That's not how my mom is. She probably got off the phone and laughed at me actually. But God loves us; He wants us to have that gift; He wants to be in relationship with us; He wants us to open the door, even if the house is a mess and we're still in our bathrobe. He doesn't care. Show up and open the door. He's there; be there. Let Him come in.

## **SCRIPTURE / SHARING**

On His way to respond to an appeal to heal a man's daughter, it says: *As he went, people pressed in around him and a woman, who had a flow of blood for 12 years and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitude surrounds you and presses around you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me for I perceived that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling and falling down before him, declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in*

peace” (Mark 5:22-34). I can’t say I know everything but my intuition is... God hears us when we pray and I was praying, “God, my heart feels shredded. And I need you; I need you at this meeting. I want you to touch me one to one.” Well, it was kind of a sneaky way this woman approached Jesus, a timid way, not open. And Jesus wouldn’t let it slide. It’s not just the healing; it was something personal. He wanted her to be reassured that He was acknowledging this woman; He was seeing her face to face.

## SCRIPTURE

**John 14** has the scripture we’ve heard so many times tonight: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life” (vs. 6)*. And then He follows on in **Chapter 15** with more. He says, *“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit because apart from me you can do nothing” (vs. 4-5)*. And then down to **verses 7-11**: *“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”*

## WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

I think the Lord is still knocking on someone’s door. I get this sense that, you know, somebody knocks at your door and “I can’t open this door; I haven’t combed my hair; I haven’t brushed my teeth; I’m a mess” or “I can’t open this door. My house is a mess.” And the Lord is saying, “I see your heart and that is what I desire to see. Be not afraid to open the door, for I am here to give you my love, to give you my strength, to give you my power. I am here to tell you that you are loved. But if you do not open the door, I ask: Do you reject my gift? Are you afraid to get my gift? Be not afraid, my beloved one. I do not come to threaten; I do not come to scare. I come to give you my love. Open the door, my beloved. Open the door to your heart.”