

## INSPIRED WORD

### February 7, 2018

#### REVIEW

This is a review of the inspired word from the last quarter of 2016, but it really doesn't matter when it was. God has spoken and we're going to listen. This one is all about mission. And maybe as you recall, the last time I did the inspired word, it was God gifts us and pours Himself out to us and gives us a mission. Well, this one is all about the mission. He gives us gifts, yes, and He encourages us. He even builds us for the mission. And then we're working to work on some actual how do we use the mission examples. So this is a lot of beautiful prayers and inspired scripture and prophecy that came in this quarter. It was amazing how much it talked about mission. We're going to start from an inspired scripture, **Ephesians 3:14-21**: *For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts, through faith, that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.* And this is an exhortation: "As Christians, we should advance into the world, advance into the areas that need the love of Christ, advance into society, advance into the culture, advance into those places that really need to hear the truth. Be a messenger of God's truth, His love, and a bearer of His light." And then a confirmation of that exhortation: "I think that those words were right on, and what has been going through my mind are the words, 'They will know we are Christians by our love.' Too often the world thinks of us as Christians by a stance that we take or a political view that we hold – and those are rightly Christian. But what is important is that people should see and know that we are Christians by our love. And He made us for this extraordinary mission." And there were some scriptures and prophecies about being a potter. From **Jeremiah 18:1-6**: *So I went down to the potter's house and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: "Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as the potter has done?" says the Lord. "Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand."* And that's what we are. And after someone heard that scripture, they had a confirmation: "When we heard the scripture that the Lord wants to purify and create in us a pure heart, I saw the potter making different kinds of clay pots. Some of the pots were pitchers, and some of them were little bowls. The sense of this is what God says in His word in **1 Corinthians 12:4**: *There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.*" And now a prophecy about the potter: "And now, my beloved, be still, be silent for a moment for I

am inviting you to become the potter. You have asked to see my face and I have said to you, “Touch, feel, imagine, for it is I who is here for you. It is not necessary for you to see with your eyes, for your heart reaches out and it is your heart that touches, just as my heart reaches out and touches you. I have tears of joy for you because of my happiness. Be happy also, my beloved, be happy for the joy that I have given you, and I continue to give you, for there is light. You are the light; you are the light that allows others to seek, for perhaps one day they may reach out and touch my face and that with their hearts they may see. Share your joy, share your happiness, for I have gifted you. Take the gift and share it.” And indeed God does gift us as we talked about before. But He wants to remind us that He loves us; He gifts us, and we have that. In **Ephesians 4:10-12**: *... so that he might fill all things. The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.* And that is our mission, and He fills us with power. A prayer that was spoken: “Lord, fill us with Your power that we might be able to spread Your kingdom and to be able to speak Your word and to be able to pray. Lord, touch the hearts of everyone here tonight and light that fire! Light that fire within us, Lord!” And He rescues us. From **Psalms 40:1-3, 17**: *I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me up out of the slimy pit, out of mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. You are my Help, my Deliverer; You are my God.* And from closing comments on a Baptism in the Holy Spirit that took place at a Life In The Spirit seminar in that quarter, Deacon Chuck reminds us that God always answers prayer. He says, “But the thing that you have to remember is that we have asked in faith for God to baptize us in the Holy Spirit and He always answers that prayer. So you can be assured that that has happened to you!” And God encourages us. He gives us all kinds of reasons that we should do our mission. And this is a sharing and exhortation: “What I got from the words was that God loves us so very much and He recognizes that we are loving and praising Him. He knows that it is hard for us to take it ‘out there’. He knows that we want to do that, and He understands our difficulties. But He says that we can share our stories with others, that is what we need to do – share our stories and our love for Him with others. We don’t need to get into any kind of deep theological discussion but just share the love we have for Him and how much He loves each and every one of us.” And then another confirmation and inspired scripture: “I confirm what has just been spoken. The Lord is telling us that we have a cup which we are to drink – a mission that we have to accomplish. But as we just heard in prophecy, He is going to be with us. From **Psalms 23:1**: *The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I lack.*” So to summarize our mission: He’s going to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine. He gifts us all the time for that mission. He, the potter, made us for that mission, and He encourages us in that mission. He is going to be with us. So now we have to do our part. God has done all these things, given us all this word, given us all these extraordinary things. What is our action going to be? Well, our action is now. It’s not “I’ll wait till I’m ready” or “I’ll wait till I’m holy” or “I’ll wait till I’m more comfortable in the prayer group.” It’s now. I was praying on the way over here and I said, “Lord, I had such a challenging day. I’m not really in a good place to receive Your gifts and

Your blessings for this mission.” And He said, “It doesn’t matter where you are.” He gifts us and He fills us no matter where we are. So we are qualified to do the actions now. So when do you start? Let’s imagine that we started with the praise gathering tonight. Let’s start out in the parking lot or maybe even driving here. Pray for the people that are going to come: “Remove any obstacles, Lord, that get in their way.” Pray for safe travel. Pray that cars start. When you’re out in the parking lot, pray. When you come in here, pray. If our Lord was sitting here, what would He do? He would love each and every one of us, care for each and every one of us, that’s what He’s calling us to do. That’s what the mission is. So pray for people. Greet the people. Love the people who you see here. And then when you’re out in the world, pray for those people too. If you’re in a line at the grocery store and you see a toddler that’s having a hard time, pray. Wherever you are, pray. Pray for that person, love that person. And set a good example of doing those kinds of things, those confirmations that we read about. If someone says something that you agree with, let them know out loud because you don’t want them to sit up there by themselves and not have heard they did the right thing, that they stood up and were brave. Let them know that they said the right thing. You wouldn’t let somebody just stand there if you agreed, not if you loved them. And if you’re out some place and you find that someone needs prayer, tell them you’re going to put them on the prayer chain as our friend Phyllis did this week. There’s always somebody to pray for. And if you have a story of hope, share that hope because there is somebody in this room that needs to hear it. If God rescued you, you have a story. Share it. And if you love all these people out here, God will tell you when to share it. He will let you know. So the places that you can do this are everywhere. Look to your right, look to your left. Find somebody to pray for, and do it now. Don’t wait. Don’t wait till you’re holy. I had a bad day today but God says it’s okay. I’m holy enough to pray for somebody else - now. And so I have a prayer that I thought was just beautiful. It reminds people of when to pray for others. “Lord, it is You Who transforms us; it is You Who makes us holy. It is You Who pours into our hearts Your fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, meekness and gentleness – all of those things that are necessary for us to shine forth the holy Presence of Jesus. Lord, we pray for that holiness, that transformation that only You can bring about in each one of us, Lord. Lord, make us holy as we say “Yes” to You. Yes, yes, have Your way in us, lead and guide us, make known to us what we should do. Lord, tell me who I should talk to this day, tell me where I should go, tell me who I should minister to, tell me to whom I need to speak the truth, tell me to whom I need to show compassion. O Lord, make me holy, make us holy! Amen.” So spend some time on these reflections, wherever you are, and look to your left and look to your right for someone to pray for.

## **EXHORTATION**

So as you heard that word summarized, see where God might have touched you, a word, a message, a challenge. Ask the Lord, what do I need to do tonight, tomorrow? Who are You calling me to, to spread Your love, to give Your message? We encourage every one of us to look at the inspired word on the website every week and also the eBlasts, which are a really good summary, and take it to heart, take very seriously that word. Don’t let it just go, but take it

to heart and give the Lord honor and thanks for what He does here among us. Our website is [newpentecost.net](http://newpentecost.net).

## SHARING / SCRIPTURE

“Here I am” to say something about our God. Last week I was led to the book of Job and I’m thinking why. I’m not that familiar with the book but I know enough about it to wonder what in Job could be appropriate for praise and worship. So afterwards I go to adoration, and it wasn’t until I got to adoration that I thought I’d look through Job. And I came to the end of the book, chapter 38, and I think I found what the Lord wanted me to find. It’s just wonderful. And then the fact that at Sunday mass we had a reading from Job, it was kind of a confirmation for me that I was to share this. If you remember in that reading, Job is talking and he says, “I will never see happiness again.” You know, he’s having a real pity party and I don’t mean to say that lightly because all, if not some, of us have experienced a time of despair, a time of loneliness, a time of hurt, a time of anxiety, a time when our responsibilities are overwhelming, or all of those things and we may have felt like Job. I mean, I’ve been there. So I don’t mean to take that lightly, that he’s having this trouble. But at the end of this book, **Job 38:1-3**, the Lord says to him: *Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.* My bible has over 80 questions that God asks of Job, and I’m just going to share some of these with you because this is the Old Testament, this is before Jesus taught us of the Father, helped us to know who the Father was. This is the Old Testament, this is God the Father Who, you know, was not real well-known to people or at least not this intimately. He is sharing things about Himself in these questions that’s extremely intimate and is kind of opening up as to what His responsibilities were, have been, or are. For example, one of the questions He asks Job: **v.12:** *Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place?* None of us do that - that’s God. Every day He gives us a new day; He gives us the dawn. He has that power; He has that control; that’s His. **v.16:** *Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep?* God knows every inch of this planet. If He knows every inch, even the deepest parts of the sea, don’t you think He knows us pretty well? Yeah, everything about us, He knows. **v.19:** *Where is the way to the dwelling of light, that you may take it and discern the paths to its home?* If we had to find the way to the light by ourselves, I doubt we would. Maybe we wouldn’t even know there was a light. God provided the light and He provided us the way to the light, the path to get there. **v.25:** *Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain, and a way for the thunderbolt, to bring rain on a land and to make the ground put forth grass?* Again, the weather, the rain – He’s in command of that. Those are His; He created them. We need the rain to provide us the food, the plants for the animals to eat, again, He’s providing for us. So carefully, so importantly, so thoroughly He provides for us. **v.33:** *Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?* I kind of have to laugh at this one because nowadays to get a law passed it has to go through committees, amendments and votes and all of this. But God knew exactly what we needed. If we all follow the ordinances of

heaven, the Ten Commandments, the beatitudes, the new law to love God and love your neighbor, He knew that would take care of it all. He didn't have to think about it; He just knows; He just knew. **v.41:** *Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?* You know, even these black ugly big birds, to me the least of the bird family, God is taking care of them. He's providing food for them. If He's providing for a raven, don't you think He's going to provide for us? I mean, Jesus tells us that in the New Testament but this is the Old Testament where God's letting us know exactly what kind of God He is. **39:9:** *Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will he spend the night at your crib?* There's this brute of an animal, an ox, and he's willing to, or he does, in humility, dependence, submission, lay at a crib. I interpreted that as a baby's crib, maybe a foreshadowing of Jesus in the crib, the Magi came, the shepherds bowed down - to be that submissive to even an infant, to be that much in awe of an infant. Last one. **v.19:** *Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with strength?* I'm sure God cares about the animals but He cares about us so much more and if we open ourselves, if we allow Him, don't you think He's going to give us the same strength a horse has? Like I said, I just thought this was wonderful - God being intimate with Job and there are just so many things to praise Him for. I think a lot of that we take for granted, certainly the dawn, the rain, we take all that for granted. But I was just thinking that during Lent, even if we don't find ourselves in a place like Job or whatever, to just turn to that and get encouragement and get hope and to just see what a wondrous God we have and how much He really does care for us.

## **SCRIPTURE / PRAYER**

**Isaiah 6:1-8:** *In the year that King Uzziah died (he was the political leader that died who Isaiah admired so much)... In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on the throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim, each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." And the post of the door was shaken by the voice of him who cried out and the house was filled with smoke. So I said, "Woe is me for I am undone; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it, and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged." Also, I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and whom shall go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I; send me." And he said, "Go, and tell this people." Dear Lord, we just thank You that You have honored and graced us with the mission to speak to those... to speak to those who have not heard and who we have the opportunity to witness to. Lord God, we just praise and exalt Your holy name. For You alone are worthy. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb, worthy the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. Worthy of all honor and worthy of all glory and worthy of all praise are You. For You alone are worthy. O holy risen Lamb of God, O holy righteous, righteous and true, holy and just, righteous in all Your ways.*

And we praise and exalt and magnify Your holy name. Righteous, righteous, righteous is the Lamb, righteous is His name, righteous is He in all His ways. We do praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name.

### **PRAYER / SCRIPTURE**

We praise You, Jesus, for all the beautiful things You have given us. We praise You for taking care of us, even sometimes when it gets so hard for us in our daily lives. But Your Spirit helps us. In **Romans 8:26-27**: *In the same way the Spirit too comes to aid in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches the heart knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.* We glorify You, Lord, for all the beautiful things. Thank You for Your Spirit, thank You. You take care of us, just like the birds. Consider the lilies – they do not toil or spin, but You take care of each one of us, every bird of the air. How much more, again I say, how much more He loves us and takes care of us. And He puts us on His shoulders and He walks with us when we cannot; when we can't walk by ourselves, He carries us. We praise You, Jesus. Thank You, Jesus.

### **SCRIPTURE**

Yes, the Lord cares for us and, as Marilyn said, He cares for other people through us. That's our mission. This is from **1 Peter 4:7-11**: *Be serious and sober for prayers. But above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace; whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion for ever and ever.*

### **SHARING / SCRIPTURE**

A couple of the words that have been echoing through my head this evening is we've heard the words awe and wonder and how great and how deep, and with what Denise was talking about, it just all feeds in together. We heard about God the Creator and often I forget that I'm part of His creation. We are part of His creation. And **Psalms 139:14**: says in first person, it says, *"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."* And if He has made us that way, then we can go out to the mission that we're called to. We have to remember that and to pray. But it's in first person; it's a scary Psalm for me to read, but that's what it says.

### **PROPHECY**

Come, my beloved, come. Let your hunger be quenched by my love. Let your thirst be quenched by my love. Come, my beloved one, come. Hear me in your heart for I am speaking to you one by one. You are special to me. You, yes, you who questions, you who worries, you who is in pain, you who is lonely. It is you that I say, come, my beloved, come. Experience, experience my love for you. It is I who created you; it is I who created you out of love. You

have called for my presence and I say to you it is I, the I AM. It is I that is here; it is I, the great I AM, that says to you - come. Come and be filled with my love. Yes, I have given you a mission, but before you leave, come and experience all that I have to give. For it is in your receiving that you shall be able to speak, that you shall be able to share, that you shall be able to encourage, that you shall be able to bless others, that you shall be able to help others, that you shall be able to feed others. Yes, I will send you out two by two, but I shall be the one that makes you the two. And so now I say once again, forget all that ails you. Come, come and know my love for you.

### **CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE**

And I have a confirming scripture... before the word of the Lord began through Mel, I was sitting on this scripture and I believe it confirms that word. **Isaiah 25:6-10:** *On this mountain (which the Lord seemed to say was this mountain of praise which you have come to)... On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well aged wines, of rich foods filled with marrow, of well aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that spread over all nations. He shall swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.*

### **SHARING / SCRIPTURE**

I think it's beautiful that tonight we're celebrating our fun Chubby Wednesday, which is our version of Fat Tuesday. That celebration in the church came for a couple of reasons. One is that there were all these things that in penance and fasting they gave up during the 40 days of Lent to unite themselves with Christ in prayer. But there's also no refrigeration so they didn't want the meat and the butter and the cheese to go bad, so you had a party beforehand to use it up beforehand so it wouldn't go bad over those 40 days. But I think the deeper level of that celebration is really the scripture... and I'm not going to quote it perfectly so I'm just going to summarize, but when the Pharisees said, "Your apostles, your disciples are acting like drunkards and having a great time. Why aren't they fasting like the Pharisees? Why aren't they rending their garments and being sad?" And Jesus said, "There will be plenty of time to be sad when the bridegroom leaves. Right now the bridegroom is with us so we celebrate" (**Matthew 9:14-15**). And tonight I think the Bridegroom is with us and has been with us all night. And I hope you've experienced that too. And so we celebrate that a little bit tonight because the Bridegroom has been with us and is with us each day. And as we go into our Lenten penances, we do that to become holier and deeper and more unified with Him by getting rid of distractions and the luxuries of our lives that can so easily distract us from what's important. But tonight it's okay to be joyful.

