

INSPIRED WORD
February 19, 2020

PRAYER

O Lord we pray that You send revival fire here tonight. Refresh us. Let us burn anew. Let us burn with greater zeal. Let Your revival fire come tonight, Lord. Let it come; we need it, Lord.

PRAYER

O Lord, You break every chain. You break all bondage, O Jesus. You roll back the stone and bring us out of the darkness, O Jesus. You reach down with Your right hand and raise us up, O Jesus. You call us to Your love, O Jesus. You save us. Jesus, You save us.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Psalm 84:1-2: *How lovely is your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints, for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God. Father, we thank You and we praise You and we just exalt Your holy name. Our heart and our flesh cry out for the living God, for the living God, the God who has made us, the God who brought us into this place, the God who made us to be who we are this night and this day. We just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You are the King, the holy King of kings.*

SCRIPTURE / IMAGE

From **John 15:5-11:** *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and me in him bears fruit in plenty. For cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a branch and withers. These branches are collected and are thrown on the fire and burnt. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for whatever you please and you will get it. It is the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit and be my disciples. I have loved you just as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love. Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.* Jesus' own joy and praise would be in us and our joy would be complete. And the image that I had that came with this is from a friend who put it out today but it stuck in my head all day and as we've been praying tonight it just gets brighter and brighter. She said there's a trellis and there's a vine and there's branches. We are the branches that bear the fruit, that carry the fruit. Christ is the vine that comes from the soil that feeds the branches. The trellis is the support systems that help keep us in place so that we can carry the fruit, and that trellis is our friends, the church, the sacraments, our prayer. But never forget that it's not the trellis that gives the life and the joy. It's the vine coming through the branches to bear the fruit. And if you get hung up on "Do I have a pretty enough trellis?", you're kind of missing the point. So don't worry so much about your trellis. As long as it's stable, you're in good shape. It doesn't have to be glamorous. The

world says it has to be fancy; God says, "Focus on me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Remain in me and I will remain in you."

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

We were singing all those songs about flame and fire and the Lord gave me this passage from **Revelation 3:15**: *I know your deeds; that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either one or the other. And then He questioned me, maybe all of us, "Are you just warming up in the fire of Pentecost or are you a soul on fire?"*

CONFIRMATION / PROPHECY / IMAGE / SCRIPTURE

I have a confirmation of that. I just kept hearing the word "whole-hearted". And basically the Lord was saying, "I know that you want to be whole-hearted for me, and sometimes you feel that you cannot be." And I had an image of a heart that had a piece missing, like if you have a puzzle and there's just that one piece and you can't finish your puzzle. And the Lord said, "Don't worry because I will provide that piece." Then He gave me **Psalms 51:10-12**: *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

PROPHECY / EXHORTATION

A word: "My people, I'd rather you be hot or cold but not lukewarm. My people, choose! Choose me! Choose my Spirit! Open your hearts to my fire. Say yes! Do not sit on a fence. Say yes! Say yes, Lord, here I am. Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, here I am, hot for you." There's a strong call. Come, let us choose. Let us go, let us go to the Lord. No more, no more, no more can we sit on the fence, no more can we make excuses because of fear, because of anything that hinders us. No, no longer can we do that. We must say yes, yes, yes in the strength of the Holy Spirit with His fire in our heart and love for the Lord Jesus Christ. No more can we sit complacent; no more can we be neutral, no more can we give in to fear, no more. We must say yes to that Spirit of God, that Spirit of fire, that Spirit of courage, that Pentecostal fire that is poured forth upon us now. Glory to You, God.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I have a confirmation of the scripture that Barb read. Earlier while we were singing, I was standing there, just kind of fingering the prayer missal in the pew, and I stuck my finger in one and I just had the sense that I needed to open it right where my finger was to see, to read it, and it happened to be Ash Wednesday's readings, and I thought that's a coincidence since it's next week. And then as Barb read the scripture I'm thinking that it sounds familiar. The responsorial song on Ash Wednesday is: *A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence and your Holy Spirit take not from me. Give me back the joy of your salvation and a willing spirit sustain in me, O Lord. Open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise (Psalm 51:10-12)*. And then the second reading that day is from Paul to the Corinthians and says: *We appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, "In an acceptable time I heard you and on the day of salvation I helped you. Behold, now is a very acceptable time" (2 Corinthians 6:1-2)*. And finally: *If today you*

hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Hebrews 3:7-8). So on Wednesday, those readings should just bring back what we're feeling, experiencing right now.