

INSPIRED WORD

April 25, 2018

REVIEW / PRAYER

We're going to be following our path to Pentecost. We've been praying for the last few weeks for a new, fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church, community, parish, and especially upon this group that we might be empowered to do the work of Jesus. I'd just like to begin with a prayer as we pray for a new Pentecost. Lord, renew Your wonders in this our day as by a new Pentecost. Holy Spirit, make us fearless proclaimers of Your love and truth. Fill us with all the charisms that are needed for the new evangelization that You call us to. Hold nothing back. We want it all. Let signs and wonders accompany our testimony and grant us courage to evangelize whenever and to whom You send us, and to do it with joy and love. We pray also for Your manifest presence in our midst. Let Your glory come. Let Your holy fire come. Let our hearts be filled with zeal and love for Jesus so that we cannot but proclaim Him with our lives as Savior and Lord. Can you say amen to that?

(Explanation of and invitation to Awaken)

(Teaching on the Ps of Pentecost – Presence)

SHARING / PROPHECY / SCRIPTURE / CONFIRMATION

I just have something that the Lord wants me to share with you. Last week after Praise & Worship when I went to adoration (talk about being in the presence of the Lord), after I spent time with Him I just sat back and said, "Lord, now I want to listen." He took me on a little journey through the bible. First we started out in Act of the Apostles – Pentecost, and that made sense because that's what we've been talking about, then we went to the book of Joel, from Joel to Isaiah and from Isaiah to the book of Haggai. And He said that this is a parallel to what we're experiencing now as a community. It's a very short little book. It covers a very short span of time but it's about a specific event. This was after the Israelites had been set free from Babylon. King Cyrus of Babylon said, "Okay, I'm going to let you go. You can go back home, go back to Jerusalem and rebuild your temple" (because it had been destroyed). So the Israelite people went back to their promised land, to Jerusalem, and they spent some time building their houses, establishing their livelihoods, taking care of themselves, providing for themselves, filling themselves up. And I see that that's what we do here; I feel like that's what we have been doing here as a community. We've been filling ourselves with God, with the Holy Spirit, with His power, with what we need, making ourselves stronger, establishing ourselves. But the first thing God says (He's speaking through the prophet Haggai), the first thing He says to **Haggai** is: "*Thus says the Lord of hosts: This people say the time has not yet come to*

rebuild the house of the Lord” (1:2). And He’s not mad at them but He’s saying basically, “Enough’s enough. You guys have focused on yourselves and it’s now time to start focusing on me. It’s time to rebuild my temple.” The temple was a big thing back then. To parallel that to today, He’s saying to us, “It’s okay. You guys had to spend time on yourselves. Now it’s time to focus on me. It’s time to build my kingdom.” And what I found really interesting here is that He says, “You know, you’ve been sowing seed but the harvest has not been real plentiful. You’ve been clothing yourself but you’re still not warm. You’ve been feeding yourselves but you’re still hungry” (1:5-6). Basically, what I saw here was that He has been giving us things, He has blessed us tremendously in this community. But just like He’s telling these folks back then, He can give us more. He has not been blessing us in complete abundance. He’s asking them to focus on Him and then He’ll provide all. He’s asking us to build His kingdom and then He’ll provide even more than what He’s already been doing. He says, “*Go build my house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may appear in my glory, says the Lord*” (1:8). He definitely takes pleasure with what He does here and with what we do in our praise and worship. He will take greater pleasure if we move on. So that He *may appear in His glory*... we experience Him here in His glory. But just like we said, we can’t keep God in a box. What are these walls? We’ve been keeping His glory here in a box. He wants us to build His temple, He wants them to build His temple. He wants us to take His glory, build His kingdom so that His glory can be seen by a whole lot more. He says, “*I am with you, says the Lord.*” *And the Lord stirred up the spirit of (the leadership) and stirred up the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God* (1:13-14). The Spirit has been stirred up, definitely in our leadership; I hope that it has spread to a lot more of you right now, and when He stirred up the spirit in these people, they immediately took action. They came and worked on the house of the Lord. He’s calling us to take action to work on His kingdom. He says, “*Take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit abides among you; fear not*” (2:4-5). That promise that we’ve already talked about, that goes clear back. And it’s like it’s been supersized because of Pentecost but the Spirit... He promised that Spirit clear back when they were released out of Egypt just like He promises to give it to us now at Pentecost. Jesus was here, took us out of slavery and bondage; it happened back when the Lord took them out of Egypt. His Spirit was given to them at that time; Jesus gives us the Spirit after His resurrection. He says, “*I will shake all nations so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of Hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts*” (2:7-9). Back then, since the temple was kind of the sign of God and the place where God dwelt, the gold and the silver, to make it magnificent, was important. But really, is the silver and the gold what’s important to Him? What are God’s treasures, truly? The souls of His children. We’re the splendor of Him; we’re His treasures. And to use these precious metals like silver and gold is good but that’s us because we’re to reflect

His glory, to shine, to be the light, to be the shine, the sparkle like these metals are. He says His new house will be greater than the prior and He will prosper, He will prosper. He's telling us that He's going to make this work, that He's with us, that He's going to help us, make us shine so that His kingdom will shine. It will be better than the former. He says, *"Pray from this day onward"* (2:15). Prayer was the second P of Pentecost that we talked about. *"Pray now, consider what will come to pass from this day onward."* *"From this day on I will bless you"* (2:19)... *for I have chosen you," says the Lord of hosts (2:23)*. He's chosen us, you guys. This isn't about being afraid or getting out of our comfort zone anymore, for me anyway. This is about not disappointing Him and being worthy of what He's calling us to do. It's just time; it's just time. And I'd like to say that I think this is totally encouragement and confirmation that it's time. And I don't know what that's going to look like; I don't envy the pastoral team as to what is going to happen, but I do want to suggest one thing. If this is going to start with an event or start with something, a mass or something, whatever, I'd just like to propose this date. It says in here that when the Lord stirred up the spirit of the leadership and *"stirred up the spirit of all the remnant of the people, they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month (1:14-15)*. June 24. I know the calendar at this time was different than the calendar we use now, but since this is a parallel to now, I think using our calendar today is fine. But that's the day that it says the people took action and started building His temple and if we're looking for a date, it would just be very significant I think, and it gives us a goal. This was just so encouraging to me and very exciting and I just don't want to disappoint Him.

CONFIRMATION / SHARING

I want to confirm what you just said because the first week of April, I was sitting at the Citadel chapel and that person is here tonight but I'm not going to say who it is, she can say if she wants to, but she told me the things that you said. We were talking about prayer group and she said that it's time to move, it's time to change. We've got to do more; we've got to go out; we've got to be awakened. She used a lot of the same things that you did. And I'm glad that we're moving that way. I totally agree so in confirmation to what you said, that message... different words but the same tone of that message was given to me that first week of April when I sat and visited with a friend who comes to this prayer meeting, and she kind of gave me her thoughts about prayer group. It was exactly that the Lord had told her all that.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

The word that came to me today was in **Psalms 16:11** and it's *"In your presence is fullness of joy and at your right hand are pleasures evermore."* God has ordained this time and this place for this people. He has ordained it in this time, in this place and for this people, for us to operate in a way that He has caused, that He has ordained for us to operate. Father, we just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name for You alone are worthy. Worthy are you, O Lord, for You alone are worthy, worthy of honor and worthy of glory and worthy of all

praise. You alone are worthy and You have set our time in motion in this place and You have set our times in motion and we do want to move in accordance to Your will and Your purpose for this day. Thank You, Lord.

PRAYER

Lord, we just receive Your joy, as Your Holy Spirit comes and Your river of grace flows.

IMAGE / SHARING

All these rivers... I had a dream this morning. I saw this river and I think more of us are getting these signs. It's not just one or two or three. I think more of us are getting this. I saw this river. It was coming down from the mountain; it was enormous. And I'm running around looking for my ear plugs and my bathing suit and there are people out there. They're in the river. It's a warm river; I can tell that it's warm. There are lots of people in there and my sense is that it's the word of God. This river is the word of God flowing out. And it's enormous. And I just wanted to be there and I wasn't ready. And I said, "What do I do?" And the word I got was pray. Pray a lot. That's the word. That river is real. I see it.

PRAYER

Lord, we're asking for it. Amen. We want to be ready. We also want to be carried away in Your grace. Glory to You, Lord. Come, Holy Spirit, come. You're touching our hearts, Lord, and we thank You. We're going to ask for more, more of You, Lord.

SCRIPTURE

From **Ezekiel 47:1-5**: *Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water flowing out from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the façade of the temple was toward the east). The water flowed down from the southern side of the temple, south of the altar. He led me outside by the north gate and around to the outer gate facing the east where I saw the water trickling from the southern side. Then when he had walked off to the east with the measuring cord in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and had me wade through the water which was ankle deep. He measured off another thousand and once more had me wade through the water which was now knee deep. Again he measured off a thousand and had me wade. The water was up to my waist. Once more he measured off a thousand but there was now a river through which I could not wade for the water had risen so high it had become a river that could not be crossed except by swimming. Thank You, Lord.*

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

And I have this as confirmation from **Isaiah 43:15-19**: *"I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King." Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick. "Remember not the former things,*

nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

CONFIRMATION / PROPHECY / EXHORTATION

I want to confirm that reading. We were praying beforehand and the Lord gave us this message. He said, “If you can see where you’re going and you can get there on your own, then you don’t need me. I ask you to focus on the path that I set forth for you, and if you follow that path, then you will arrive at where I want you to go.” And brothers and sisters, we need to pay attention to that. You know, I was just thinking to myself, if you’re not excited, you haven’t been listening because God has been speaking. And you cannot sit still any longer. He has told us over and over again to get up and walk. And if you’re sitting there letting your behind grow, it means you haven’t been walking. And walking means to go out and spread the word of God. And as Denise said, focus on Him, focus on what He’s asking us to do, focus on Him day and focus on Him night. We’re going in a new direction and if you head out on your own, you’re going to get lost. We have to focus on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and we have to follow His path. Let’s get excited; let’s jump for joy and let’s start walking – please. He said to us, “Some of you will not come along.” Please don’t let that be you. Be the one that crosses the river with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

SHARING

When we go out into the river, do you want to know how you flow with the river? There’s a current out in the middle of the river when you’re over your head and the way you do that is you swim against the current and the current will pick you up and carry you where it wants to. And if we want to be carried where the current of God wants to carry us, all we have to do is get in and out there over our head and start swimming slightly against that current and He will take us and send us to new places we have not even imagined in our wildest imaginings.

PROPHECY

My children, my dear children, the time is now, the time for you to act. I have gifted each one of you here with many of my spiritual gifts. Don’t worry about it, don’t even think about it. Just let my Spirit go through you to others. They are attracted to you because of your joy; they are attracted to you because I am in you. The time is now. No more waiting. This is so important for all of my other children. You must listen now and act.

PRAYER

O Lord, make us hungry for Your holy presence. O God, increase that hunger in our hearts. Increase our thirst for Your holy presence. O Lord, let our hearts cry out for You. O Lord, come. Our hearts cry out for You, Lord. O Lord, increase that hunger and thirst so that we almost can’t stand it, that we cry out to You, Lord, with every fiber of our being. We cry out to You, Lord. You know, I feel like I almost cannot stand it in my heart and the crying out to the

Lord... O God, hear us, hear us. From the depths of your being, people of God, cry out to Him, cry out to Him for His holy presence, cry out to Him. Lord, come, come, we want You, we need You, come Lord, strengthen us, come, Lord guide us, come, Lord, make us holy. Give us Your courage and desire Your zeal. Proclaim Your holy name. Come and make our hunger and thirst real, Lord, make it real, deep within our hearts, make it real. We yearn for Your presence, Lord, Your holy glory, God, your holy glory, God, Your manifest presence, God. O come, Spirit of God, come. Have Your way. O Lord, to be overcome by Your presence, we don't really know what that is like but deep in our hearts we yearn for that. We yearn for that because as Your presence comes, Lord, we are transformed. Your holy glory transforms and heals. Come, Holy Spirit, come, hear us.

PRAYER

Lord, we've asked You to come, to fall on us here. And Lord, You heard that prayer. Right now, You're touching the hearts of Your people.

SHARING / SCRIPTURE / SENSE

I have to say about the water, we said open the floodgates, let it rain. Just think about no umbrella, no hat. It is pouring. You know how it rains here, sheets of rain. No protection. If you stubbed your toe before the rain came, you forget all about the fact that you stubbed your toe. It's raining, you're getting wet. In **Ezekiel 47**, they had to get to the river that was so deep that all they could do was swim. It wasn't good enough that it was ankle deep or knee deep; you had to get all the way in. I got this word a few minutes ago – overwhelm. But when I saw the word "overcome by your presence", I realized that was the word. And He wants us to get overcome by His presence, soaking wet in the rain, in the floodgates of heaven. He wants us to swim in the river and to stop thinking about anything that has to do with ourselves. We don't think about what to make for dinner; we don't think about our stubbed toe. Instead, we are overcome by His presence. And what He told me was that in that presence is His heart, His mind, His will. We need to be overcome by His heart and His mind and His will for us.

SCRIPTURE / SENSE

The woman with the hemorrhage was desperate for Jesus, for a touch from Him (**Mark 5:25-34**). And as we prayed that song, "I am desperate for You", I had a sense of power going out from Jesus. And He would say to us, "If there is anything that You need my power for, if you have fear, if you're unsure, if you have an illness, reach out because I have power. Just as the woman touched the tassel at the hem of my garment and received healing, that power is available to you. Reach out and touch and let my power fill you."

SHARING / WORD OF WISDOM

That word that we just heard requires us to have some faith and some trust to know and believe that this God will do what He says He will do. And that He has done what He said He

would do. Tomorrow is a very special day, and I would hate to see it go by and not remember because in April 26, 1986, the Lord formed this community. Today completes 32 years. We start the 33rd year tomorrow. The presence of the Lord that we heard about tonight is here. If the Lord's presence were not here, this community could not survive on its own. It could not face the day to day activities, the week to week, the month to month, the year to year, the tugs, the pressures. But God's faithfulness has kept this community together. His presence was there then to start it and the first seminar was called Sealed in the Spirit, where Fr. Paul sealed everybody with the oil of confirmation, on our hands and our forehead. Thirty-two years have passed and the presence of the Lord is still here. And the Lord is still telling us tonight, "I'm here with you" and I think 32 years from now He'll continue to say, "I am with you" because that's faithfulness and that's trust. And He wants us to have that without the blink of an eye but to know it completely in our heart. Not just the word but to know when the Lord comes down and says, "My power is here for you", we don't have to think about that because we know that He has been here present for 32 years. So we believe and we trust in His word. We don't have to think about it; we don't have to analyze it; we don't have to read books about it. We know if the Lord says that His power is available for each and every one of you, it is because He's proved that by His faithfulness. And we say thank You, Lord. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for Your presence, for Your power, for Your love, for Your trust, and for Your faithfulness.

SENSE

It's time for the closing song but Ray, as you were sharing that, this thing came to my mind. When Jesus was 33 years old, He was crucified, He died and He rose again. But how did He finish His mission in that year? He went home, He went to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit upon His disciples so that they would go forth and bring the good news. How fitting that He is asking us so imperatively "Go forth in this your 33rd year of existence."