

INSPIRED WORD

July 12, 2017

PRAYER

We give You glory, Lord, with all the angels and saints, through all time. We just thank You, Lord, for coming as we're calling and allowing us to respond and say, "Yes, amen, we believe." We praise You, Lord Jesus, glory to You.

PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for taking care of the burdens that we lay down at Your feet, and Lord, for those that we haven't, those that we still hold onto, we ask You to take them, Lord. Take them away from us, and just fill us with thoughts of praising You, in giving You all the praise and honor and glory here tonight. And we thank You, Lord, for doing that. Amen.

PROPHECY / WORD OF WISDOM / SHARING

Last week, in a lot of words, we were told to answer a direct question. And that question was: "But will you take the steps necessary to go forth and carry My love and My word to those in pain, pain of the body, pain of suicide, pain of joblessness, pain of divorce, pain of loneliness, pain of not knowing Me?" That was a question. And what struck me is that it's not the first time that the Lord has asked us that question. I think He asks us over and over and over again. But last week He told us to think carefully and then answer. And so I hope we did that. And before He said that question to us, there was a sentence He said: "You are empowered and yes, indeed, I have equipped you." He said that first. And then He asked us the question. See, in other words, He gave us the assurance that we were empowered and we were equipped to go out and minister to those who are in pain, whatever type of pain they encountered, and to bring His word and His love into this troubled world. So I just wanted to restate that question again tonight, because I know sometimes when we leave here, we go back into the same circumstances that we were in before we came here. And sometimes, when you reach a certain age, words don't stay with you. They don't stay with me any longer. But I knew it was a call from the Lord, and I knew that that call was for each and every one of us. And I just pray that the answer was "yes", you know, from each and every one of us. It's not an easy answer; it's not an answer the Lord wants us to take lightly and just say it. He wants us to ponder it and say, "Yes, Lord, I will do that. I will step out. You told me I'm empowered. You told me I'm equipped." So what stops me from doing that? Well, in my case, a lot of times it's fear. A lot of times I can say I don't trust enough, and I should. And so keep that in mind because I have a thank you. I'm going to ask all of us to give a thank you tonight but I have a thank you to the Lord, and I was kind of doubting it at the beginning, because it involved this very question. And I said, "Yes, Lord, I will step out. I will do what You want me to do. I will speak what You want

me to speak.” And immediately, within a few days, He placed me into a situation with an individual who stated unequivocally that they didn’t believe in the Lord, could not believe were the words. And so I waited for the Lord to come. “What do You want me to speak, Lord? I’m ready.” But I didn’t have anything to speak. I didn’t have anything to say. And that’s my biggest fear, you see. The Lord tells us He’s going to give us the words just at the right time. But you know what happened in my case? I didn’t get a word to speak back. And I’m smiling because I know now why. I didn’t know then; I know now why. And the simple answer is that it wasn’t the right time for me to speak. And I didn’t understand that; I didn’t know that. I thought if someone stepped into a situation like that, somebody else ought to jump up and say something. But to do so at that time, at that moment, would have ended in disaster. I know that the individual would have been hurt; that individual would have felt like I didn’t respect what they had to say. I know that they would have jumped up and said, “You’re just doing that to preach to me.” I know that now. And what happened was that after we parted ways that particular night, it wasn’t too long after... I think it was the same night... the Lord gave me exactly the words that He wants me to speak to this individual when I meet with them. And that amazed me! And the words that He gave me were something I never would have thought of at that moment. And I know now that that was the right thing to do. See, everything in the Lord’s timing. If we say “yes”, then we wait for the Lord to respond. So I thank Him for that. And not only did He give me the words, He gave me two stories. Thank You! Not one but two! Thank You! And I know He’s going to provide the time and the place. And I know He’s going to provide the setting, the setting that’s going to show this individual that I’m really concerned about what they said and I just want them to listen. But I thank the Lord for doing that. It was a big learning step for me. So that’s my thank you for this week. So who else has a thank you?

(Multiple sharing of thanks)

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

I think what we have to remember is that it’s not us who has to do very much of anything in these situations. Last week we had this powerful scripture from the Lord (**Isaiah 60:19-20**): *The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light and your days of sorrow will end.* If the Lord is going to be our everlasting light, then we know He’s going to shine that light on every situation that He brings us to. We just have to be ready. We don’t have to fight and defend, you know. We don’t have to argue. We just have to bring the Lord’s light into a situation. And we might find... we just might find that the answer to every situation is just to let the love of the Lord surround this individual. Just surround them in such a way that we represent that love and they can see that love. And just that little action may pull them back into the love of Christ. So we thank You for that, Lord.

SHARING

A lot of the time it's not what we say, it's what we do. And just to be present to someone may change their life in such a way that it boggles our mind, you know. Sometimes I get bogged down in saying, "I'm not intelligent enough; I'm not intellectual enough." But God can take something as simple as a balloon, a beach ball, and you would be surprised at the joy that it brings to somebody's heart. That's how we change a darkened world. We don't go out there and beat someone into submission. We just show them that we want to be with them; we care for them; and they care for us. We just want the love of Christ to flow between us. So we thank You for that, Lord.

PRAYER

Thank You for the situations You place in our life, Lord. Let us understand that You just want us to be love and bring love to all these people. Thank You, Lord. Now we're going to praise and worship the Lord.

PRAYER

O God, release the gifts of tongues, interpretation, prophecy, words of wisdom, words of knowledge, discernment of spirits, faith, healing and miracles. Release them, God, in Your people tonight. We want them because of Your love. And the scripture also says to eagerly desire them. We want to have that desire in our hearts because through them, Your love, Your presence, is manifested. So let us, O God, be messengers of Your love. Glory to You! So, are you ready to do that? Okay!

SCRIPTURE / WORD OF WISDOM

From Psalm 89... it's a long psalm so I'm not going to read all of it because it's like two pages long. But what jumped out at me was (**Psalm 89:1-8**): *I shall sing of the faithful love of Yahweh for ever; from age to age my lips shall declare your constancy. For you have said, "Love is built to last forever." You have fixed your constancy firm in the heavens. The heavens praise your wonders, Yahweh, your constancy in the gathering of your faithful. Who in the skies can compare with Yahweh? Who among the sons of God can rival him? God is awesome in the assembly of the holy ones, great and terrible among all who surround him. Yahweh, God of hosts, who is like you? Mighty Yahweh, your constancy is all around you.* That word, over and over – constancy. We live in a world of constant change, and to know that we have a God who can be present in our change and constant in His majesty. And that's the God we share when we evangelize and also the God Who we preach to ourselves when we need a reminder.

SHARING / PROPHECY

The phrase "sing a new song"... at that moment, the first thing I thought of is that I don't like new songs because... Sometimes I don't like a new song right away. It's different; I don't know

how to sing it; I don't know if it's going to be too high or too low; I don't know the melody. And that was just a random thought that came to mind. And then that thought came even more, and I thought that what's even worse than a new song is when you have your favorite song and another artist sings it in a completely different way with, you know, different pacing, different... maybe a different key. I don't know; I'm not that good at music. But they change it a lot. And I balk at it. And then that's when the Lord said: "But I want you to sing new songs. I want you to do the things you already do in new ways. Get ready for a new thing."

IMAGE

I was listening to Catholic radio on the way up here and they were talking about the mass so it was fresh in my mind. And listening to that last song about the Lord bringing us to the banquet table... And I kind of looked up at the stained glass for a moment and closed my eyes, and I saw the host and saw this tremendous light radiating and beckoning to all of us. And I thought about all the angels and saints right here with us. We can't see them but they're here. And just waiting for the day we'll be up in heaven at the heavenly banquet table.

PRAYER

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE / PRAYER

Last week that word "Ignatius" was just running through my mind. I was thinking, Lord, this seems very foolish to me, this name. I don't know anybody by that name. And after I voiced it, Eric came over and had loaded St. Ignatius of Loyola onto his phone. But the following day, Monique sent an email, and she said that at her job, for the first time ever, a man came up to her and his name was Ignatius. And not only that, but he had a (...) was blessed. Ignatius Blessed. So I said, whoa, you know. When I thought how foolish... when it doesn't make sense what You give us, Lord, help us just to do that and let Your will be made known. So we stand here tonight, in this place, opening our hearts to You, Lord.

SHARING

I just have a sense tonight of God's awesomeness. The phrase from the song, "I am the beloved" I believe was the phrase, and then the song about the banquet. And the Old and New Testament are just full of weddings and banquets, and eating and drinking, and men and women and how special they both are. And finally in Revelation, the final wedding and the final banquet and the final bride and Christ the groom, and I'm just thinking about all that's going on. It's so incredible. I don't know what else to say. It's just incredible!

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 8:1-9: *O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the ocean. You have taught children and nursing infants to give you praise. They silence your enemies who were seeking revenge. When I look at the night sky, I see the work of your fingers, the moon and stars you have set in place; what are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us? For you made us only a little lower than God, and you crown us with glory and honor. You put us in charge of everything you made, giving us authority over all things, the sheep and the cattle and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims in the ocean current. O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth.*

SENSE / PROPHECY

As we sang in that last song, “Lord, I’m amazed at how You love me”, the Lord brought to mind today’s gospel (**Matthew 9:9**), where the Lord calls his disciples and then He sent out His apostles. And the gospel named each one of them. The one that really struck me was Matthew, the tax collector. And I thought, yes, he was one of the apostles. And I just thought about Matthew sitting there at the tax table and the Lord saying to him, “Come, follow Me.” And the scriptures tell us that he got up and he left and followed the Lord. And all night tonight the Lord is saying to us: “I put you where I want you. I put you where I need you.” And He brought back to mind all the situations that were shared tonight, where people have been, and what they said or what they didn’t say, and how they prayed. And I just hear Him saying to us: “Take courage, be at peace, for wherever you go, I go with you. Take courage, be at peace, you’ll have the words that you need to speak, or you will be silent and pray as I need you. Take courage, be not afraid, for I send you and where you go, I go with you.”

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I confirm that. I think I’m getting a passage in **Isaiah 41:9-10**: *You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off; fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.*

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

Just to confirm what everyone has said so far, actually Mary’s song of praise, the Magnificat in **Luke 1:46-55**, it says that Mary said: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on this humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts, and he has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he cast away empty. He has helped his servant*

Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.

WORD OF WISDOM / PRAYER

Be ready when God says go. Do the homework that's required to be ready for the challenge, knowing that the great (...) is for that moment. And then He promises He will make it useful. He will use all things for His good to those who love Him. Lord, we just thank You for that promise. We cling to that rock when it gets murky and hard in the storms of our life. Lord, we just ask and pray for You to be with us, walking along with us, holding our hand. For we know that You love us more than our life itself. More than we can possibly imagine. That's Your promise, the promise of creation.

SHARING

I was walking with my granddaughter today and we were talking a little bit about the Ten Commandments, you know, to teach and help her understand, just talking a little bit about the first four. And she kicked rocks and we had a pretty good little... we were walking home. I decided to turn on the music on my phone and I picked one of the stations and I heard a song from Mercy Me. I can't remember the title but it was something about ten good rules, something like that. I like their music but I had never heard this song before. Out of the hundreds of songs that could have come out of my phone, that's the one that came out. And the fact that God would confirm what we had been talking about just amazed me. He smiles on the least of His creation; He knows us all. I praise Him.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Isaiah 25:6-9: *On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wine, juicy rich food and pure choice wine. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all people, the whip that is woven over all nations. He will destroy death for ever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said, "Behold our God, to whom we look to save us. This is the Lord for whom we looked. Let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us. We thank You, Lord. We thank You this night for giving us Your words of encouragement. We thank You, Lord, for reminding us that we should always be in awe and amazed at what You do and what You say. We thank You, Lord, that You have reminded us that You will prepare us for whatever You call us to do, and we just have to wait and listen. We thank You, Lord, for Your presence here among us. We thank You for Your blessings; we thank You for Your words of encouragement; we thank You for the banquet that You have prepared for us. Lord, let us always remember that it is You, that it is You who do this, Lord. And let us always be amazed at the things You do and the words that You say to us. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

I was led to **2 Timothy 2:1-7**, and before I read the passage, this was a time when Timothy was apparently overawed by his surroundings and did not make his witness boldly, and Paul gives him three illustrations that all have the same point: hold nothing back from commitment to your work. This was in the notes related to this section. This is what he says: *You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything.*