

INSPIRED WORD
August 1, 2018

PRAYER

Lord, we just give You this night. Thank You for calling us together; thank You for blessing this community, for blessing our town, for blessing our lives. O God, we just ask that You be present here tonight in a powerful way, touching and healing those who need it, opening and unlocking gifts for the rest who want to hear Your voice. Lord, we just love You, because bottom line, that's why we're here, is to love You and to love you more. Amen.

Teaching – The power of the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

From the **Epistle of Jude: 1, 20-22, 24-25**: *To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you. But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ until eternal life. And on some, have compassion, making a distinction. Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and forever. Amen.* Father, we just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name. Lord Jesus, we praise and exalt Your holy name. We thank You, O holy Lord. Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb, holy the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We do praise and exalt and magnify the Lord. For He alone is worthy, worthy of all honor, worthy of all praise. Praise be to You, O Lord. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb of God.

PRAYER

Glory to You, God. Lord, You are the one who rolls away the stone. O Jesus, mighty Lord, Savior. You are the one who rolls away the stones of despair, O Jesus, the stones of fear, O Jesus, the stones of ignorance, O Jesus, the stones of complacency, O Jesus, you roll them away. Mighty Savior, we give You glory in this place tonight, glory as we surrender to You. Praise You, Lord, glory and praise. Pour forth Your Holy Spirit upon us, Lord.

EXHORTATION

Sometimes the world is seen through a lens. That lens is clouded. When we come here and praise, we're cleaning the lens. It's time to clean our glasses.

PRAYER / EXHORTATION

Yes, Lord, open our eyes that we might see, see clearly, Lord. Be open as we continue and the Holy Spirit comes into your heart and mind, and be open to these gifts that we're talking about: Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Prophecy, Tongues and Interpretation. Be open to receive that tonight. So Lord, we're here and we're willing to step out; we're willing to take a risk because of the love we have for other people, for each other. So, Holy Spirit, come, come and touch us tonight, come and inspire us tonight, come and move us tonight.

SCRIPTURE

From **Romans 8:35-37**: *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble, or hardship, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5: *When we could not bear it any longer, we decided it'd be best to be left without a companion in Athens and sent our brother, Timothy, who is God's helper in spreading the gospel of Christ, to keep you firm and encourage you about your faith and prevent any of you from being unsettled by the present hardships. As you know, these are bound to come our way. Indeed, when we were with you we warned you that there would be certain hardships to bear. That has happened now as you have found out. That is why, when I could not bear it any longer, I sent to assure myself of your faith, because I didn't want the tester to have put you to the test and that all of my work would have been pointless. And my sense of that message is that God calls us to community but the hardships have been there from the beginning. And God brings people to share the faith with us, to teach us to love Him, and then He sends others to strengthen our faith and encourage us in the trials so that we can continue on strong in what God began. And sometimes your job is to be encourager and sometimes it's to be the planter and to show someone the love of God for the first time. But the hardships never change. And the love of the Lord never changes. And as we said at the very beginning, He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. And that is our hope. Be strength for each other as we walk the journey.*

CONFIRMATION / IMAGE

I just need to confirm that because as we were singing that song – "Lord, I need you" – that sometimes in those moments of need, it's so overwhelming, it's so lonely that we feel like we're the only person who has ever wrestled with whatever we're wrestling with. But that's the enemy. He tries to move you away because the more isolated you are, the more you feel like you can't reach out. And the sense I had is to reach out, reach out to the people around you. I just keep on having this image of reaching out, reach out to the person sitting next to you, reach out to the person sitting behind you, reach out to them.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

I've been getting one word for quite a while now and that word is "antagonize". It could mean that there's a person in your life that is really causing you a problem. Antagonize is the word. So the Lord speaks into that situation now. The grace of God is being poured forth now. If you visualize in your mind the face, the name of that person who fits that description – antagonize, one who antagonizes you, one who you just can't stand, you don't like, who antagonizes you – this is the opportunity to forgive; this is the opportunity to say, "Lord, here is my situation. Help me, Jesus, help me. Help me to forgive, give me patience, help me, Lord, to even have Your love, Your caring in my heart for that person." Glory to You, Lord.

SCRIPTURE

I'm hearing some words of encouragement out of the **second letter of Paul to the Corinthians 4:8-11**: *We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

And I just want to say that I confirm that because I had that exact same scripture, only starting with: *We hold this treasure in clay jars to show that the power comes from God and not from us (2 Corinthians 4:7).*

IMAGE

As we started tonight I sensed angels among us, and they were just standing in the rows and the aisles. And they weren't singing and they weren't making melody or anything like that; they were just here with us. They were being with us in our praise and our worship; they were here. In fact, I almost caught sight of one out of the corner of my eye. It was like they were here; they were with us, and they were enjoying being with us and they were enjoying the presence of the Lord with us. And it was just really special and I wanted to share that.

EXHORTATION

Let's sing with the angels about the beautiful One who we love. That's what gives us courage in the depths of the troubles.

WORD OF WISDOM

When we leave here, the same power that's here is out there. And also, it's something to remember that God does not need us – He wants us. Just like He doesn't need us to be here

on Wednesday night – He wants us to be here on Wednesday night. We're wanted, not needed, and that makes it even more special. Just remember that.