

INSPIRED WORD
August 23, 2017

(Leader) God is good. (Group) All the time.

(Leader) All the time. (Group) God is good.

(Leader) That is His nature. (Group) Wow!

PRAYER / SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

Lord, thank You for Your holy presence here with us, and a presence of joy, too. I have the burden basket here and, you know, Jesus said, *“Come to me all you who are burdened and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)*. So let’s just toss in mentally anything that you came in with that is a burden to you, that would prevent you from totally keeping your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. So we take that burden and place it into Your hands, and we thank You for taking it, and we thank You for strengthening us, and we thank You for pouring forth Your love upon us that we may be joyful in the midst of anything that is happening to us, because of Your love.

PRAYER

Jesus, we’re here to lift high Your holy name. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! We welcome You. Glory to You. Thank You for the love You pour forth upon us, the Lord that seeks us out no matter where we are, no matter what we do. O Jesus, Your amazing love, Lord. Thank You!

SCRIPTURE / WORD OF WISDOM

Song of Solomon 2:8-12: *Here my love. See how he comes, leaping on the mountains, bounding over the hills. My love is like a gazelle, like a young stag. My love lifts up his voice and says to me: “Come then, my beloved, my lovely one, come; see, the winter has passed and the rains are over and gone. The flowers are appearing on the earth, the season of glad songs has come. Come, my beloved, my lovely one.* This week I saw the black-eyed Susans, so bright on every hillside and every corner and every ditch and every little pot of tiny speck that it could find in the city, the bright yellow flower, shining. And we just feel like sometimes in our lives God calls us to find those little bits of dirt. It may not feel like, at times, that He’s calling us, or that He’s walking with us, or there’s not that big pop of things or a hillside of things, but there’s a little piece of dirt that He can plant that seed in, that we can be that lovely flower, looking at the Lord, praising the Lord, and listening to His voice as He calls us and says, “Come, my lovely one, come.” And we can say back to Him, “Come, my lovely One, come”, and meet Him in that middle space.

CONFIRMATION / WORD OF WISDOM

I have to confirm what CeCe said and what Deacon Chuck spoke earlier about the Lord finding you wherever you are. So you're on that path and you're going down the path and you stray to the left and God finds you. You stray to the right and God finds you. You even go backwards and God finds you. He is going to be with you no matter where you are. And as that song said, He is faithful, and that's "is" - not "will be", not "was" - "is", no matter where you are on that path. You're not even holy yet, maybe, and He's there. You may be on your way to getting a gift; you're past the gift, maybe, you have the gift in your head that God is going to give you. God is with you; God is faithful; God is strong; God loves you right where you are. So it's okay, even if you've gone backwards on that path. God's love is there for you.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

Thank you. I have one more confirmation of that, a little bit from **Psalm 139:7-10**: *Where can I go from thy Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there! If I make my bed in the depths, you are there! If I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.*

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

Here's yet another confirmation from **Jeremiah 17:7-8**: *Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water, that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought; it never fails to bear fruit.*

PROPHECY / SCRIPTURE

I hear the Lord saying (in song): *Come to me all who labor and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest. Take up my yoke and follow me for I am weak and humble of heart. And you will find rest for your soul, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).*

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 84:5-7: *Blessed are those whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.*

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER / PROPHECY

Hosea 14:4-8: *I love them with all my heart. No longer am I angry with them. They will blossom like flowers; they will be firmly rooted like the trees of Lebanon. They will be alive with new growth and beautiful like olive trees. Once again, they will live under my protection; they will grow crops of grain and be fruitful, like the vineyard. O Lord, You surround us like a defending wall. You call us, "Come to me." Your love never runs out, never! It is always*

constant, always calling. "Return! Hear My voice. Come to Me. Return! Come to Me! Come to Me!"

SCRIPTURE

This is also from **Hosea 11:3-4**: *I took my people up in my arms; I drew them to me with affection and love. I picked them up and held them to my cheek. I bent down to them and fed them.*

PRAYER

(...) creating us. You wanted us; You chose us and called us by name. Thank You for loving us that much.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I just wanted to share a vision and it confirms the two readings from Hosea. It's that this sanctuary would be filled. From **Joel 2:28**: *Afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all people; your sons and daughters will prophesize, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.*

SCRIPTURE / WORD OF WISDOM

Luke 15:1-10: *The tax collectors and sinners were all crowded around him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep, if you lost one would fail to leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the missing one until he found it, and when he found it, would not take it joyfully on his shoulders, and when he got home, call his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me. I have found my sheep that was lost'? In the same way I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven for the one sinner repenting than the ninety-nine upright people who have no need for repentance. Or again, what woman, with ten drachmas, would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search until she found it? And when she found it, call together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me. I have found the coin I lost.' In the same way I tell you, there's rejoicing among the angels of God for the one repentant sinner."* And the irony of that statement is... He's saying, "Well, which one of you would not rejoice and throw a whole party over the one coin you found than denying the nine that you had?" And most of us would look at Him and say, "None of us." If we lost one sheep, would we leave all ninety-nine to go after the one? No one would; are you crazy? But it's the God of mercy who says, "Well, that may be your case, but that's not mine." God cares about the one as much as He cares about the ninety-nine. And sometimes we're the ones who have kind of wandered away or tucked ourselves in a corner and gotten ourselves lost. And the reality is that God doesn't stop looking. He doesn't stop coming, even when we don't deserve it, even when we hide specifically so He can't find us, or we busy our

lives with so much, there's no room for Him in our life. He doesn't stop coming and He doesn't stop rejoicing when He's reunited in our heart.

CONFIRMATION

I confirm that; I have the same scripture in Matthew.

PROPHECY

And now I say to you, my beloved, come to me and let us rest together. I called each and every one of you and I say to you – come. Come that we may be together. Come that we may rest. Come that you may experience my love. For indeed, I will search for you individually if you're the one that is lost, for I desire to search for those who are lost. And I desire for you to help me search, as we go together to call them. But for now I say – come. Come, my beloved, sit for a moment. Reach out to me, for you say that you need me and I say to you – I need you. So take this moment to put aside all concerns, to put aside all worries. Sit quietly; enjoy my love, and allow me to enjoy yours.

CONFIRMATION

As confirmation of that prophetic word, I have been hearing all night since we started that the Lord is calling each person here by name. So as you sit in the quiet and listen to Him, hear Him call your name, call you by name as if it were the first time, because He is speaking each name here and calling you to spend a little time with Him.

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

Suzanne is one of my favorite books of Scripture and it's about being restored and God bringing us back. In chapter 2, it talks about how... those of you who don't know the story of Suzanne, God commands a man to marry a prostitute and that's the picture of Israel and God's relationship with Israel, and anyway, He punishes her. I'll just read it; it's a really beautiful story of restoration. **Hosea 2:2-13:** *Forgive your mother, she is not my wife, and I am not her husband. Let her remove the adulterous look from her face and unfaithfulness between her breasts; otherwise I will strip her naked and make her as bare as on the day she was born. I will make her like a desert, turn her into a parched land, and slay her with thirst. I will not show my love to her children because they are children of adultery. Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, "I will go after my lovers, to give me my food and my water, my wool and my linens, my olive oil and my drink." Therefore, I will block her path with thorn bushes. I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way. She will chase after her lovers but will not catch them. She will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, "I will go back to my husband for then I will be better off than now." She acknowledged that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and the oil, and who lavished on her the silver and gold which they used for Ba'al. Therefore I will take away my grain in its time, and my new wine when it is ready. I will take back my wool and my linens,*

*intended to cover her naked body. But now I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers, and no one will take her out of my hands. I will stop all of her celebrations, her yearly festivals, her new moons, her Sabbath days, all her appointed festivals. I will ruin her vines and her fig trees, which she said were paid from her lovers. I will make them a thicket and wild animals will devour them. I will punish her for the days she burned incense to Ba'al and decked herself with rings and jewelry, and she went after her lovers, but me she forgot, declares the Lord. So that's a very dark picture and I related to it a lot, before in my life. Then He turns and starts restoring her in every single way. And it says (**Hosea 2:14-23**): Therefore, I am going to allure her. I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and I will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as of the day she came up out of Egypt. In that day, declares the Lord, you will call me 'My husband.' You will no longer call me 'My master'. I will remove the names of the Ba'als from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked. In that day I will make a covenant with them with the beasts of the fields, the birds in the sky, and the creatures that move along the ground. The sword and battle I will abolish from the land so that all may lie down in safety. I will betroth thee to me for ever; I will betroth in righteousness and justice and love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness and you will acknowledge the Lord. In that day I will respond, declares the Lord. I will respond to the skies and they will respond to the earth, and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. I will plant her for myself in the land. I will show my love to the one I call Not my loved one. I will say to those called Not my people, 'You are my people,' and they will say, 'You are my God.' I just wanted to share that.*

WORD OF WISDOM

God longs to restore what we messed up.

CONFIRMATION / IMAGE

I would like to confirm what you just read because before you spoke I had this vision of a woman, and she had a crown of thorns on her head. And Jesus came up to her and He touched it and it became a lieu of flowers. And it didn't make sense to me but after you spoke, I was going to share this with you afterwards, but you're from Hawaii, right? Yah, He turned whatever crown, whatever those thorns were, He turned it into flowers.

IMAGE

I keep having this ladybug image. I don't know what that means.

SENSE

There's this childhood rhyme that says: Ladybug, ladybug, fly away home. And I really feel that the Lord has been calling us home to Him tonight. Many things tonight, like: You're all I need; this one thing remains; Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out; I need

You, Lord, I need You. And I really feel that the Lord is calling us to Him, home back to Him, to realize how much we need Him.

PRAYER / SCRIPTURE

You call us back home. We give our hearts to You and pray how much we need You. And we thank You for pouring forth Your love on us, speaking those words of welcome, those words of calling and those words of return. Jesus, I remember the words You quoted from **Deuteronomy (6:4)**: *Thou shalt love the Lord your God with your whole mind, your whole strength* – and the graces to do that, to return to You, with grateful hearts.