

INSPIRED WORD
September 4, 2019

PRAYERS

Lord, we're here now to praise You, to come close. Reveal Your presence, O Lord.

SCRIPTURE

From **Isaiah 50:4-6**: *The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary. Morning by morning he wakens, he wakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting.*

SCRIPTURE

The word "amazing" was in a couple of our songs and the verse that came to me was from **Psalm 40:17**: *Though I am afflicted and poor, yet the Lord thinks of me. You are my help and my deliverer, O my God. Hold not back!*

IMAGE / SCRIPTURE

For the very briefest moment while we were singing, I saw a sheep draped across Jesus' shoulders. And He's saying: *I know mine and mine know me* (**John 10:14**).

SCRIPTURE

I'd like to confirm everything that's been said so far – the amazing love and mercy of the Father. It's shown in **Luke 12:7** where it says: *Indeed, even the hairs on your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.*

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

John 1:1-5, 14: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things came into being through him, and apart from him nothing came into being that has come into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness could not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. Father, we just praise You and thank You and magnify Your holy name. We thank You so much.*

IMAGE / PROPHECY

I had a vision of a person lying on their back looking up at the clouds in the sky. And the person was trying to find shapes in the clouds, like we sometimes do. But the person couldn't find a shape. And I felt that the Lord said, "You're trying to make something familiar out of the unfamiliar. I move the clouds; I know how they should be." And then He added to that: "If you, my dear one, are in an unfamiliar phase of life, know that I move your life just how it should be."

CONFIRMATION / IMAGE / SCRIPTURE

I have a confirmation of that. As we sang the song "Everything that I am, everything I long to be, I lay it down at your feet", I saw in an image the Lord standing there and He was magnificent; His heart was so big. In this image I saw each one of us individually come and lay something down at His feet, whether we got up and did it or did it just from where we were sitting, if we just did it with our mind, no matter how we did it. As we lay that down at His feet, He took it and He said those words that are in the prophet that said, "*I know the plans I have for you, plans for a future filled with hope*" (**Jeremiah 29:11**). And as He did, He looked at each one so lovingly and I just saw a look of pure delight on His face that we would bring what we long to be and lay it at His feet and His promise that whatever we bring, He makes magnificent and glorious.

EXHORTATION

Just one last word I've been getting pretty strong this evening and that's if you need to make use of the sacraments that God gives us, the sacrament of confession, of reconciliation, or Eucharist, do that. Do that! Don't let what you're carrying and what's in your head and in your heart and what your actions have done create barriers between you and the Lord. He gives us those sacraments for a reason, to sweep out the dust, to clear the doorways so that we can open up even more to Him. And we are so blessed that the Holy Spirit is present in this place but sometimes we keep the doors shut and we only open the window a crack to let Him in because we've stacked it with so much stuff, in front of the door, that you can't even open the door anymore. So if that's where you're at, just go to confession and get rid of that junk so that door can be opened wide and the windows and the roof – whatever – so the Holy Spirit can sweep through your life. He makes that open to you. Don't hide from Him. Amen.