

INSPIRED WORD
September 6, 2017

PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, O Lord, and fill this temple with Your holy presence. O Lord, fill the temple of our hearts with Your holy presence. Come, Lord, and have Your way here in this place tonight, and help us to lift high the name of Jesus. Let Jesus be glorified here.

Come, Holy Spirit, come; we invite You. Lord, You are not a Spirit of timidity but a Spirit of power and love. So touch every heart here, O Lord, of every person, and grant them that anointing, Lord, that anointing that will let their hearts burst with praise and desire to glorify You tonight.

PRAYER

We just praise Your name, Jesus. Holy is Your name, God.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Jeremiah 18:1-9: The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord saying, "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear my words." Then I went down to the potter's house and there he was making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter so he made it again into another vessel as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the Lord. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hands, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom to pluck up, to pull down and to destroy it, if that nation to whom I have spoken gets turned from its evil, I will relent the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom that I will build and plant it."

Father, we just thank You that Your mercies are new every morning, that You are merciful every morning. And we just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name. And Lord, we know that many times we err and we go off in directions we should not, and we just pray that You would teach us and direct us, lead us, guide us and teach us in the way that we should go. Father, we just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name. And we just ask that You would put Your hands upon us to make us anew according to Your purpose, according to Your will. For it's in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray. The name before whom every knee should bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, both things in heaven and on earth and under the earth, that every knee should bow and every tongue confess that He is the Lord.

SHARING

This is an experience that I had that I wanted to share with you. A couple of weeks ago we were on vacation and we had to stop at a drug store; I'm talking about my husband and I. So we pulled in to this small shopping area and it was right on the corner of a four lane road that had a lot of stop signs so it was bumper-to-bumper traffic on this road and then it went into this shopping area's parking lot. And right on the corner as we pulled in, there was a man with a big sign talking about Jesus; it had a few scripture references, and he even had a microphone. I don't recall what he was saying but he was proclaiming about the Lord. And we went ahead and parked and I just got the sense that God wanted me to go over and thank him for proclaiming the Lord, because to me, doing street preaching takes a whole lot of courage and is not something I would ever be able to do. He was by himself. So I went over there and I just said, you know, thank you for your testimony, for proclaiming the Lord. And I don't know, he said something, and I was going to leave it at that. But all of a sudden I found myself talking to him because his sign said... on one side it said, quoted from scripture, it said, "wrath of God" and on the other side it had the scripture verse in which it says, "Fear of the Lord." And all of a sudden I found myself saying, "Have you ever thought about trying to draw people to our God by talking about His love, and the gifts that He gives to us, and making it more appealing to people rather than using words like wrath and fear, which kind of tend to scare people away?" And we sort of talked about that and I could tell he was thinking about what I was saying. And I said, "You know, us Christians know what it means when we say "fear of the Lord". It means awe and reverence. But if you're trying to draw somebody to get to know God, they don't know that. They're going to think "fear", like, you know... why are they going to really want to come if they have to be fearful?" He was a born again Christian, so I kind of understand where he was coming from but we just had a really good talk and blessed each other when I left. And as I was walking away I realized that during the whole time I was talking to him, I didn't even pay attention to the cars and the people that saw us there. A whole lot of people saw us but it didn't make me self-conscious or embarrassed. And I just wanted to share for a couple of reasons. For one thing, that was a very baby-step because I was talking to another Christian so nothing threatening, you know. It's not something to be afraid of if you're with a fellow Christian. If there's two or more of us, God will be there. Like my husband said, "That is so unlike you," and it really is. So I do believe I was responding from God's calling me to do that. But the other thing that occurred to me too is that we hear a lot about getting out of our comfort zone. And I thought afterwards, you know, it's more like getting comfortable with doing that type of thing. It helps to just get us more comfortable doing that in public.

CONFIRMATION

And as Jesus sent His apostles out in twos and threes to go out and do their practice mission, and they come back and report, again as Denise says, you will not be alone.

PRAYER / SHARING

I would request everyone here tonight to please join me in prayer for those who are in the path of Hurricane Irma. I have family in Miami. My son, who just came out of worship, asked us... his priest has a hurricane prayer and so if you can just pray in your seats there, it says: Father, all the elements of nature obey Your commands. Protect us and all Your people during the season of storms and hurricanes. Calm our fears and help us prepare our hearts as well as our homes. Help us to see You in all we may encounter, And help us to minister to each other in Your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

PRAYER

Hear our prayers, Lord, for protection, for those people, Lord.

SCRIPTURE / SENSE / SHARING / WORD OF WISDOM

From the **Acts of the Apostles**, Stephen was preaching to the people and when he was done, they were furious because he called a spade a spade, and also because he said he really saw the Lord. **(7:54-60)** *And when they heard this, they were infuriated and they ground their teeth at him. But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and covered their ears and rushed upon him together. They threw him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid down their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he said this, he fell asleep.* I just have a feeling that we have an invitation to look up to the heavens and see this Jesus we keep talking about and singing about, seated at the right hand of the Father. And then ultimately, He calls us to come and be with Him at the right hand of the Father. And while death is painful and a grief for those who are left behind, for the one who passes away, who passes into glory, and goes to the right hand of the Father, it's joy, it's fulfillment, it's the goal. It's like crossing the finish line. You've been running the race your whole stinkin' life and you finally get there. It's a time of celebration and joy. And for those who are left behind, it's a call to run harder, to mirror that, to be in that image, and live like that person lived. A good friend of mine lost his friend at 45-years old; he had a heart attack and passed away. And he was the godfather of his children, and the other young man was the godfather of his kids. And he just said, "I'm so sad for the loss of my friend, and I know he's with the Lord. He really loved God and I know he's at the right hand of the Father." And so it's hard to be sad and glad at the same time. But even Jesus, when his best friend Lazarus died, He wept. He was sad. Even though He knew He was about to raise him from the dead, He still was sad. And then He did something about it, to show us that there's always that hope after

death. And He invites us to join Him in the resurrection. He says, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who comes to me..."* (John 11:25). You all know the verse, right? "I am the resurrection and the life." And we can join God, we can join Jesus, in the resurrection. And that's the glory; that's what it's all about, you know.

(Message in tongues)

INTERPRETATION

My beloved people, I desire to speak with you. So often I have told you how much I love you, how much I care for you, and many of you are aware. And yet, at times of distress, not such for yourselves but for your fellowman, so many turn to fear. And many, yes, many turn from me. For they question why I don't stop these things. But do you not know, my people, do you not believe, it is not I that is responsible for these things? For I care for your fellowman as much or as more than you do. And I cry for their safety, but more than for their safety, I cry for their souls. For despite the crisis they are in, many do not turn to me. And so again I say to you, I sit with you, and I say to you, know how much I love you and know how much I love them. So continue to sorrow for them, continue to pray for them, but my love for them is so great that I say to you, my beloved ones, above all, continue to work hard to bring them to me. Work hard to change their minds, to change their hearts, to change their direction. Things are often difficult in this world. I recognize that. But my love and my hope is far greater, far, far greater than the trials on this earth. So hear once again, I love you, my beloved ones, and I love those for whom you pray. I love those for whom you sorrow. Work hard to bring them to me.

CONFIRMATION / SHARING / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

I want to highly confirm Mel's interpretation of his word in tongues. When I was a very little girl I thought I would grow up to be an artist, a scientist or a missionary. I wasn't sure which one. But I thought if I was a missionary that I would go to Africa because that's where missionaries go. But, turn on any news channel, and what do you see in our nation? People can't even gather and just speak about something they want to without another group coming and causing violence. So much division, so much trouble in our own land. And it seems to even be symbolized by the weather. We've got fires ravaging the northwest, floods in other parts. We've got such trouble here in our own nation. I found this in **Matthew 9:35-36**: *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd.* (These people that Mel spoke of... it sounds like the people that Mel spoke of, some of them, right?) (9:37-38) *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* Lord, we ask You to send us out into this harvest field. We may not feel ready but You've been telling us of Your love for us. You've been gifting us with gifts of the Holy Spirit, some of

us for years. When we think of those You've called in the past, there have been some that stutter and can't speak well. David, a man after Your own heart was the youngest brother out in the field, not the strong brother they thought would be anointed. Matthew was a tax collector. Peter was a fisherman. Lord, we may not feel ready but that's okay. It's not under our power. Strengthen us, Lord, and equip us. Put the desire into our heart to go out into that harvest. Build that desire, Lord. Give us faith that You will help us be harvesters. The harvest is ready but the harvesters are few. Rouse us, Lord, give us faith and strength. And let us know it's not of our power; it's You. It's You that can equip us. Our own nation needs us so much, Lord. Help us. Let us be the one. Let us do it. Amen.

PRAYER / EXHORTATION

We praise You, O Lord, the God of our ancestors. May Your holy, glorious name be held in honor and reverence forever. May hymns be sung to Your glory forever and may Your holy presence be praised in the temple where You sit on Your holy, heavenly throne above the weak creatures. May You be praised and honored forever. May You be praised as You sit on Your royal throne. May hymns be sung to Your glory forever. May You be praised in the dome of the heavens. May hymns be sung to Your glory forever. Praise the Lord, all creation, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, skies above, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, all angels of the Lord, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, all waters above the sky, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, all heavenly powers, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, sun and moon, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, stars of heaven, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, rain and dew, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, all winds, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, fire and heat, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, bitter cold and scorching heat, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, dews and snow, sing His praise and honor Him forever. Praise the Lord, nights and days, praise the Lord, daylight and darkness, praise the Lord, ice and cold, praise the Lord, frost and snow, praise the Lord, lightning and storm clouds, sing His praise and honor Him forever.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Jeremiah 18:1-11: *The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord saying, "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear my words." Then I went down to the potter's house and there he was making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter so he made it again into another vessel as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the Lord. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom to pluck up, to pull down and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. And*

the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom to build and to plant it, if it does evil in my sight, so it does not obey my voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it. Now therefore, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the Lord, behold. I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you.' Father, we see that You have allowed a disaster to come upon us. We just want to humble ourselves before You, just... I don't know a good way to say it. But I just want to humble myself before You, O Lord, as we are facing these disasters. As we are facing these disasters on an individual level and a collective level, Lord – in California, in Houston, and Miami and the mobs that are running wild in the streets. Father, we just pray that You would forgive us of whatever it is that we've done, that we would turn from our wicked ways. And we know that it's the Christians that You are concerned about; it's how our hearts are bent, and we just turn from Your ways. We want to turn our way toward You, and turn towards You and just be able to hear Your voice, hear Your voice as You speak to us, that You would speak clearly and we would hear clearly, that we would remove the wax from our ears and would hear very clearly the things that You're saying to us tonight, tonight and the times that have gone before. We just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name for You alone are worthy. You're worthy of honor and worthy of glory and worthy of all praise. And if I've spoken out of order here, I just pray that You would hold it against me and me alone. For it's in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

PRAYER

Lord, may we be Your hands and Your feet to a tired and weary world, to our tired and weary homes, and our tired and weary hearts. Help us bring the joy of Your gospel, the good news of salvation, to all who need to hear it. And if we need to preach it to ourselves, Lord, let us hear it there too. Pour down Your Spirit.

PROPHECY

As we sang that song, I was reminded of the word that we heard at the National Conference, that this place is to be a reservoir where we are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, and in that song we sang, "Holy Spirit, rain down". But from this place should go a river, a river. And I just hear the Lord saying to us, "What do you know about me?" And Denise's word about the love of God, not the wrath of God... And the Lord is asking you and me and each one of us, "What do you know about me? You know me to be love. You know me to be power. You know that when you preach my word in love, I change lives. You know me. You know me. You come to this place and you are encouraged by me. It is a reservoir but I say to you to become now that river that takes what you know about me, the praise that fills your life, take that. Take that and be a river to a dry and thirsty land."

CONFIRMATION

And what you said, Barb, comes full circle with where we started. We started tonight asking for people to go in twos and threes and spend a couple of hours at that festival and share the word of God and the love and how all of what's been spoken here tonight relative to going out and sharing the word, Denise's story, everything, I confirm because I was looking through the Bible and I came upon Acts and that's when God sent His disciples out two or three at a time, you know, to go out and preach the word and to be fortified by the Holy Spirit. And I was reading Acts during the songs and while everybody was singing and talking, and so that, to me, is a confirmation that we started the evening with that and now your words, as I've said, have come full circle, that we need to share that river, we need to share that love, we need to share our lives with other people so that they know that they can't do it by themselves. You need God. You need God in your life. Thank You.

EXHORTATION / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

And the Lord tells us to go step out. I know there's a fear. I know that sometimes we can just step back and say, "I can't do that. That's for somebody else. I don't have the words to say. I don't have the thoughts that come to me clearly. I know this person needs to hear about the love of God but I just don't have the intelligence to do that." And God simply says, in **Matthew 7:7-8**: *"Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, will receive, and anyone who seeks, will find, and the door will be opened to those who knock."* If the Lord's telling us to go out and to bring His love, as He told us in His word, "I love those for whom you pray," so He wants us to bring His love to those people for whom we pray. And He said, "I love those for whom you sorrow." He wants us to bring His love for those who sorrow, for those who are in need, for those who need help. And when we focus on ourselves, He places His word in front of us to simply say, "Ask and you shall receive." He wants us to hang on to that, to reach out and to say, "Lord, I don't know what to say. I don't know what to do. But I know that You do. So I'm going to trust that when I open my mouth, the words that You want this person to hear are going to flow into their ears and into their heart." And we praise You, Lord. Amen.