

INSPIRED WORD

October 4, 2017

PRAYER

Lord, that's what you called us to – to be Your sons and daughters, Holy Father, and we thrive in that knowledge as You pour forth Your love upon us here in this place tonight. O Lord, O Lord, let us praise You with energy and joy tonight because you are worthy, worthy, worthy, worthy, worthy. Lord, glory to You. Mighty are You. O Lord, come. We want that river of Your grace, of Your Holy Spirit.

PRAYER / SCRIPTURE

Lord Jesus, we praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name. You know, we've had a lot of rain recently. One thing you get when you get a lot of rain – the rivers flow. And we've had two songs now talking about rivers. And I was thinking about **Psalm 1:1-3, 6**: *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He should be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth fruit in its season, and its leaf should also not wilt, and whatever he does shall prosper. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.* Father, we just thank You for Your admonition in Your word. We just ask that You would cause us to listen to the admonitions of Your holy word, listen to Your voice in our ears, that we might truly be instructed. We give praise and exalt Your holy name for You alone are worthy, worthy of honor, worthy of glory, worthy of all praise. Alleluia to the Lamb, the holy risen Lamb of God. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb. Alleluia! For You alone are worthy; You alone are worthy; You alone are worthy, worthy of all honor and worthy of all glory and worthy of all praise. Alleluia to the Lamb. Glory to You, precious Lamb.

SHARING

I had somebody close to me the other day say that he's been going through a rough time, a little bit of health issues and just a lot of stress and challenge. And this person said, "Well, you know, this is just the way it's going to be until, pretty much, I die. That's just what it is, and I'll just get through it." And at the time I was just like, "What? No!" And tonight as we were just singing that song, "celebrate Your victory", all the scriptures kept rushing back to me, especially the one about the little girl who died. **Mark 5:41** And Jesus came and just said, "*Little girl, wake up*" - just "wake up" – and she did. And that death, which was a part of her life, was not death for God. It wasn't that way for the rest of her life. It isn't "just what it is," but it's God's grace that takes "what is" and makes it better and makes it holy and takes it to that next level and allows us to step out in joy and strength and faith and say, "Well, it's tough right now

but I'm not going to settle for tough. I'll deal with tough and I'll offer that to the cross and I'll take it to the cross and with that cross we're going to go to resurrection." We're not staying at the cross. Jesus didn't stay at the cross; we're not staying there. Yes, that's real but that's not the only real. So just pray for that person right now and anybody who's feeling that in their lives, just that despair or that despondency, that God would break through that wall, just shatter it, and bring joy and life back into their hearts through His strength not theirs.

SCRIPTURE / CONFIRMATION

And I came across something similar to that today as I was going through preparing the music. It's **Romans 8:28** – when I say my life is full of problems, God says, *"I will use all, even the bad things, for your good and My glory."* God has your back. That really touched me as well, so that's a confirmation.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 41:10: *Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

SCRIPTURE

From the end of **Ezekiel 18:32:** *I have no pleasure; I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, says the Lord God. Return and live.*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:1-10: *When he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and after he sat down with his disciples gathered around him, he began to teach them: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, the reign of God is theirs. Blessed are those sorrowing, they shall be comforted. Blessed are the lowly, they shall inherit the land. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for holiness, they shall have their fill. Blessed are they who show mercy, for mercy shall be theirs. Blessed are the single hearted, for they shall see God. Blessed too are the peacemakers, they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those persecuted for holiness' sake, the reign of God is theirs. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me, be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven.*

PRAYER / SCRIPTURE

No matter what the mountain, Jesus, You can move that mountain. We have heard that here tonight. Glory to You. You can move any mountain, Jesus. Glory to You. You are Savior King, glory to You. Glory and praise to You, Jesus. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, mighty to save, mighty to love, mighty in majesty, glorious and immortal, King of kings and Lord of lords, Lover of our souls. O Jesus, we acclaim You here tonight. Glory to You, glory, glory, glory. You can move any mountain. You can break any chain, Jesus. **Psalms 23:4** says that even though we might walk through the valley of the shadow of death into that darkness, You are with us and

You bring us through. You bring us out; You bring us up by Your love and by Your strength. We affirm that here in this place tonight, Jesus. At Your name, hell trembles, Satan trembles, evil trembles, and all bow the knee to You, O Lord Jesus, our Savior, mighty and glorious. And You love us.

SHARING / CONFIRMATION / WORD OF WISDOM

I'm studying an Ignatian guide for discerning spirits right now and in confirmation of what Cece and Monique said earlier and what Deacon Chuck said, Ignatius refers to the fact that the enemy is essentially weak. When confronted firmly and decisively, the enemy is weak and helpless. If dedicated persons refuse to be afraid and lose heart and choose to do what is diametrically opposed to the enemy's temptation, then it is proper to the enemy to weaken and lose heart, fleeing and ceasing his temptations. When faced resolutely, the fundamental weakness of the enemy is revealed. The enemy is essentially a coward. Like a coward, he will only attack when met with weakness. When resisted firmly, he flees.

SCRIPTURE

In **1 John 5:4-5**: *For whoever is begotten by God conquers the world, and the victory that conquers the world is our faith. And who is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

PRAYER

Just because we have a lot of tools in our toolbox that the Lord has given us, can we pray the St. Michael prayer? Just against all the evil in the world, that God and good would prevail in each heart, in each person. *Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.*

IMAGE

Earlier I was praying with Andrea and I had this vision, and I just want to encourage you that wherever you're at tonight... I just had this vision that there were a lot of people in this swamp. And Jesus was reaching out to you and grabbing a hold of you and was lifting you out of the swamp. He was taking you out of that mire, out of the dirt, and He was taking you to a good and clean place. And you can walk knowing that, even though you are in that circumstance, He is there with you through everything, and He is there to hold you and to take you out and to walk you through that, each and every step.

PROPHECY

And a word to go with that: Though your path might be foggy, I can see. Though your path might be rough, I am with you. Though your path might be dark, I am the light. Though your

path might be one of fear, I give you strength and hope. Though your path might climb up, I am there to sustain you. Though your path might go down, I am there to steady your feet. Hear Me, fear not! No matter what the path, whether it is dark, whether it is foggy, whether it is rough, whether it is curvy, fear not! I walk with you. I am with you. My mighty right arm sustains you. My love surrounds you. Fear not!

SCRIPTURE

I'm going to read a part of **Psalm 24:7-10**: *Lift up your heads, O you gates! Be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord almighty, he is the King of glory.*

SCRIPTURE

From **Jude 20-25**: *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; looking for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some, have compassion, making distinction, but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. 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, now and for ever. Amen.* Dear Lord, we just thank You that You are well able to present us in glory. We just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name. For You alone are worthy, worthy of honor, worthy of glory, worthy of our praise. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb. Worthy is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, worthy, worthy, worthy to You who takes away our sins. We just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name. For You are the King of kings, righteous are You, worthy is the Lamb. Hallelujah to Your name. Glory, glory, glory to the King.

PROPHECY

Know that I am with you always until the end of the world.

CONFIRMATIO / SCRIPTURE

To confirm what Richard said, I had this scripture last week as well as tonight. From **Psalm 40:1-3**: *I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire. He set my feet on the rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, and a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear who put their trust in the Lord.*

CONFIRMATION / SHARING

I just want to confirm... I'm probably the tenth person to come up here and talk about fear. But I was sitting back there praying and I don't watch the news but I listen to the radio a lot and obviously everybody's aware of what happened in Las Vegas and what a tragedy that is. This morning I was listening on my way to work, and has anybody seen the body cam shots from the police officers in Vegas? This terrifying hailstorm of bullets is coming down, and they have these police officers on their body cams, saying, "Where's the fire coming from? We need to get there." And they're literally running through the streets towards this hellish nightmare of gunfire, saying, "We need to stop this." And they're running towards fear. I remember when I was deployed in Afghanistan, we came under just this awful mortar attack, and all these special forces are jumping in their vehicles to run towards it. But yet when we get in our spiritual battles, I think the message I kept receiving back there was that we run away from them. We're not getting shot at physically; we're not getting shot at with mortars. We're getting just this physical fear that comes upon us and we run away from it or we avoid the fact that it's there. So maybe that message is for me just as much as anybody else but for that fear that's out there, we need to run towards it and not sit there or run away from it or pretend it's not there. That's what I was receiving.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

And this one goes with it, **Philippians 4:6-9**: *Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about those things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the Lord of peace will be with you.*

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

Along those same lines, I have two from **1 Peter**, the first is **4:1**: *Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin.* And then in **4:12**: *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you share in Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.*

IMAGE

I keep on getting this image so I think I'm supposed to share it since it won't go away. Just an image of God's face shining down on us and kind of like you see a parent, and there's just this light in their eyes, and the child reflects back in that light. And it's like God's face is shining on

us and then our faces become radiant with His light. And then I was hearing too that the Lord's weeping may tarry for the night, but joy will come in the morning.

CONFIRMATION

To confirm all those scriptures, I think this song is very appropriate – The Victor's Crown. The first line is: 'You are always fighting for us.' So I think this is a good confirmation of that.

WORD OF WISDOM

You know we're all, in one way or another, in need of the healing of Christ. Be that in the physical area, be it in the emotional area, be it in the spiritual area, there's that need for conversion. We're all in need of the healing touch of Jesus.

PRAYER

And as the dew falls on the grass, nourishing the earth with tiny, tiny drops, fill our hearts, Lord, nourish our souls with Your love. And as the hummingbird comes to the feeder to feed on the tiniest of sips, Lord, let us come to Your word and drink of Your love. And as the butterfly comes to the flower with its wings slowly moving the air, Lord, let us come to Your special place, to Your heart, and feel the winds of Your grace flowing over us, so gentle, so small, so real, so powerful.

EXHORTATION

The theme for tonight, at least from my perspective, is just this fear. But if it just stops there, it's not the good news, right? And I would just ask all of us to keep the events of this week, that fear... you know, we here have a sense of that freedom that does exist. But there are so many out there, so many at that concert specifically, who have no idea how to recover from something like this. So that, I believe in my heart, is why we're here, to pray for those that don't yet know and to be there in spirit for those people who don't know where to go.