

INSPIRED WORD
October 16, 2019

PRAYER

Lord, send Your Holy Spirit upon us tonight as we gather as Your people. Send that Spirit upon us, Lord, tonight, that we might be free in praise, free to give You glory, free to speak and free to dance. O Holy Spirit, let the river of Your presence come, Your grace of love poured forth. Come. Have Your way in our hearts tonight. Help us to say yes to Your presence, Lord.

SCRIPTURE

From **Psalms 51:1-2, 10-12**: *Have mercy on me, O God, wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

From **Revelation 4:8-11**: *“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.”* We just praise and exalt and magnify Your holy name, for You alone are worthy. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name for You alone are worthy. Worthy, worthy, worthy, holy, holy, holy is the Lamb of God. Worthy, worthy, worthy is His name.

SCRIPTURE

From **Philippians 2:6-11**: *Though he was in the form of God, he did not deem equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. He was known to be of human estate and it was thus that he humbled himself obediently, even accepting death, death on a cross. Because of this, God highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee must bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father, Jesus Christ is Lord.*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:12-13: *Those who are well do not need a physician but the sick do. Go learn the meaning of the words, “I desire mercy not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I confirm the scripture about the name of Jesus. The song, the phrase “saved by the name” is the phrase that stuck with me. And the scripture that’s been with me since then was “*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*” (**John 14:6**).

SHARING / PRAYER

I’d like to pray for some people who I don’t even know but something that has an effect on me for some time. And the first time I went to pray for someone was in 2012 when a young man, Trayvon Martin, was shot by George Zimmerman. He was a neighborhood watch coordinator. And then in September 6, 2018, a young man by the name of Botham Jean was shot in his own home by a former police officer. And just recently, on October 13, 2019, Atatiana Jefferson was a young woman who was shot in her own home in Texas, by a former police officer. And a young man named Harry Dunne, 19 years old, was killed in August of this year in the United Kingdom. He was killed on his motorcycle by an ambassador’s wife in a hit-and-run. And these things that have happened, especially most recently, have affected me dearly. And I have to tell you, I live alone and as a woman, a person of color, I don’t feel safe in my own home. But I would like to say a prayer for these people, for all of them, for the policemen and the victims and also other policemen, men and women, who have been shot unnecessarily since. I have this prayer for them: All mighty God, we bless You for our lives. We give You praise for our abundant mercy and grace we receive. We thank You for Your faithfulness, even though we are not that faithful to You. Grant, O Lord, thy protection and in protection, strength, and in strength, understanding, and in understanding, knowledge, and in knowledge, the knowledge of justice, and in the knowledge of justice and the love of it, the love of all existences, and in that love, the love of spirit and all creation. Amen.

MESSAGE IN TONGUES

INTERPRETATION

I just have an overall sense of the message. God was responding to that prayer, to that message, saying that He is so sorrowful for our troubles and our fear, but He’s reminding us to trust in Him in all of those situations.

CONFIRMATION / INTERPRETATION

He is responding to that prayer. “When you cry, I cry with you where you are, my beloved. You’re never far from my heart. I want only what is good for you and for all you hold dear in your heart. Believe that I am with you.”

SCRIPTURE

When I opened up my eyes, I looked down at my bible and it was opened up to **Isaiah 54:10**: *Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

SHARING / SCRIPTURE

A little bit earlier I had gotten this scripture where the Sadducees are questioning Jesus about the whole thing where a man has a wife and he dies and she ends up marrying his seven brothers so whose wife is she, and Jesus just shakes His head and says, *“God says: I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of the living and not of the dead” (Matthew 22:24-32)*. And I think it ties back into that prayer and the words “God is of the living”. He’s ever-living. But when we live in Him, we live as well. He’s not God of the dead because we live with Him; we live on in Him. And all of those victims, all of those individuals, those souls who He loves so much, as Barb just said, and in living in Him, they’re still alive. He’s the God of the living, the God eternal, and we can continue to love because He is love. *“Death, where is your victory; where is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55)* He’s God of the living and we can live on in Him.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I was going to share this as a confirmation of one of the songs we sang earlier because I was called to **Psalms 27:1-8, 13-14** right before we sang the song with the words, “I’m falling on my knees... and so I wait for you.” Right before that I was led to this but I also think... because I read the footnotes, it’s called the song of trust which is about this evening and I think it just addresses what we were just sharing about. *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me, uttering slanders against me, my adversaries and foes, they shall stumble and fall. Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war shall rise against me, yet I will be confident. One thing have I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent, he will set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies round about me; and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! Thou hast said, “Seek ye my face.” My heart says to thee, “Thy face, Lord, do I seek.” And it ends by saying: *I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yea, wait for the Lord!**

PROPHECY / SCRIPTURE

As I was sitting there listening to Mel, I could hear the brokenness and sadness in what he was saying. Jesus was also broken by all those deaths that Eleanor was talking about. But after

that I got the sense that He does not want us to sit there because He said to me, *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will never die” (John 11:25).*

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

And to confirm everything that’s been said so far, here’s another verse in scripture that says the same thing, **John 14:15-19** where Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit. And it says: *If you love me, keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept because it neither sees him nor knows him; but you know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.*

SENSE / EXHORTATION

I have the real strong sense that the Lord is saying to us that there are many people out there who are also in fear, who are living in a world of darkness, but they do not know the love and the joy of the Lord. And I believe the Lord is calling us to keep our eyes open for those people, to be aware as we walk around in a day of those people who are in darkness, who are afraid, and who maybe don’t have hope, and to introduce them to the love and to the strength and to the mercy of God. We are fortunate that we can support one another in this community because we have heard the word of God directly tell us that He loves us and to not be afraid. There are so many out there who haven’t heard that word, and we need to go out and carry it to them.

SHARING

I’m going to take a chance with this because it isn’t inspired by the Lord. But there’s a vignette of history in which Charles II, a Catholic king in a predominately Protestant country, and the fires of London were blazing and there was total chaos; violence was imminent but something the King did prevented it. And I think in a small way he modeled Jesus because he came into this city where the crowds were all just ready to kill somebody for all the livelihoods and property loss. The people, the commoners, were very angry at the royalty because they were royalty. And Charles II got off his horse and made a personal appeal and touched the hearts of the commoners and I was just thinking that this was what God was like. He’s powerful; He’s very powerful but along with His strength is this marvelous, winsome gentleness.

SHARING

His grace is a net; His grace we’ve seen as a net. We think of it as a safety net; it will catch us. I feel He’s saying to me tonight that mercy is a force. It is not forceful but it’s a force. I think we’ll see His mercy as a force. And I say that with hesitation because it’s not about forcing people. But His mercy, I think, is forcing and is a force. That’s all I can say.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

There's a word that I'm getting and the word is "reluctance". It's as if someone here is holding something tight. And the Lord is saying to let it go. And the person is very, very reluctant to let it go because the person doesn't know if the Lord can be trusted with it. So tonight, here, do not be reluctant. "My grace is poured forth here in this place for you. Let it go! Let it go into my hands. Let it go. No longer be reluctant but be confident, confident in my love for you, confident in my grace. Let it go; let it go. And come. Let me embrace you. Come."

PRAYER

God, you've called us here tonight to deeper trust in Your love and mercy. We thank You for sending Your Spirit here to do Your work of healing, of strengthening, Your work of salvation, of mercy and forgiveness. And, Lord, as we go from this place, let us carry with us the zeal to spread Your word, the zeal to call people to You, O Jesus, the zeal to be apostles and missionaries in this world, the zeal never to let fear, O God, stop us from doing Your will. We pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon us as we leave. Let us be vessels of Your mercy and love and Your truth.