

## INSPIRED WORD

June 14, 2017

### PRAYER

This night, Lord, we turn our eyes to You. We want You close, so Holy Spirit come upon each and every one of us here. Come upon this assembly; have Your way, and let Your love and Your mercy be made manifest.

### SCRIPTURE

You have to love the Holy Spirit. (...) we have a spiritual witness and one of the things that really struck me is that it's not our witness; it's the Spirit working through us. And the first reading today is from **2 Corinthians 3:4-6**: *Brothers and sisters, such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that of ourselves we are qualified to take credit for anything as coming from us; rather our qualifications come from God, who has indeed qualified us as ministers of a new covenant, not of letters but of Spirit.* And so this scripture backs up what we heard.

### SCRIPTURE

Another scripture came to mind, **Romans 12:12**: *Rejoice in your hope, be patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.*

### PRAYER

Lord, here in this place we ask You for Your grace.

### SCRIPTURE

This was in the readings a few days ago and it's from a book that I had forgotten about. This is from the **Book of Tobit**, chapter 12, and Raphael was speaking to the father and the son, and it says (**12:6-7**): *Raphael called the two men aside privately and said to them, "Thank God and give him the praise and the glory before all with you. Acknowledge the things he has done for you, by blessing and extolling his name in song. Before all men, honor and proclaim God's deeds and do not be slack in praising him. The king's secret is prudent to keep it; but the works of God are to be declared and acknowledged. Praise him with due honor.*

### IMAGE / SCRIPTURE

In that song I was just thinking of how cool it was that as we were dancing and singing that God was singing over us. I just had that image, I mean, put that image inside your head; God singing over you! And I was led to this scripture reading in **Zephaniah 3:14-18**: *Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has cast out your*

*enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear evil no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.*

## **SHARING**

God is a God of hope. He is bigger than any problem and He can change any heart.

## **EXHORTATION / PRAYER**

As we lift our voices, we cry out to Him. Let those voices of fear cry out to Him; let those voices in bondage cry out to Him; and let those voices in depression cry out to Him; and let those voices in uncertainty cry out to Him. The Lord hears the cry; His ears are inclined, and He knows. O Lord, hear the voices of Your people and the cry of their heart. Hear now; be in this place, Lord. Be in this place; surround us by Your love and Your presence. Hear the voices, O God, as we cry out to You. O Jesus, glory to You!

## **SHARING / PROPHECY / EXHORTATION**

As we sang that song, the Lord brought back to me a prophecy that was given to us years and years ago. He said, "I will fill this room and I will fill this church and I will fill this city with hearts that are turned toward Me." And later, years later, He said, "Keep your eye on the vision and I will fill this room, I will fill this church, and I will fill this city with hearts that are turned toward Me but I will use you to do that." And that's what we've been hearing tonight about evangelization. Listen to the words of that song: Greater things are still to come; greater things are still to be done in this city. There are people that need to hear that word and the Lord said that He would use us to do it. We've been told earlier to know our story, to know when God has loved us so that we can share that. If the greater things that need to be done are going to get done, we need to speak the love of God. Earlier we sang a song about the holy name and the name was never mentioned in the song. So we all know that there's power in the name of Jesus. And if you can come up with no other word in your story than the name of Jesus, use it. Use two words that are important: Jesus loves. That's all you have to testify. Jesus loves! If you want to add me or add you, you can do that. Jesus loves you. Greater things are still to come; greater things need to be done; not just in Thailand but here in Colorado Springs. We need to speak the name of Jesus.

## **CONFIRMATION / SHARING / EXHORTATION**

You know, I confirm that because before Mel got up, the Lord had brought to my mind that it's not a city in Thailand, or a city in Vietnam where I was fifty years ago, it's here and it's now. When you go into a city that's ravaged by war, you run into depression; you run into fear; you run into a lack of hope; you run into despair; you run into sickness and illness. And I remember those days. But I see those days here, you know, with us. And nowhere in the video tonight,

and nowhere in what we've heard, did I hear that it was an easy thing to do, to give our story, to give our testimony, to tell people that Jesus loves them. But it is an easy thing to do, because any one of us who has sinned and has confessed that to the Lord, and has been forgiven, knows what it feels like to be loved by God. And those of us who are parents or grandparents know the special feeling of love we have when you put your arm around your child or your grandchild and you say, "It's okay, we can get through anything together." So I think what the Lord is asking us to do is just to extend the loving things that we do in our homes, and in our families, and with our friendships, to people who we see in need. They're no different than we are. They just may not have ever been told that Jesus loves them. Maybe they were never told that they're forgiven for their sins. Maybe they were never told that God loves them the same as He loves each and every other individual on the face of this earth. So what I'm going to ask is that we play that song again. And when we respond to that song, let's respond to it as a prayer, a prayer that we know, whether it's Colorado Springs or Woodland Park or Manitou Springs or Safeway or Albertsons or Kings Supermarket, that we are truly willing just to reach out to someone, anyone, and be willing to say whatever word the Lord gives us. I know for me the problem is, I always say, "What, Lord, am I going to say?" But if I keep my mouth shut and just say, "Lord, if there's a word for this person, You speak it through me. I won't question it; I won't ask about it; I won't add to it; I won't take from it. I just want to speak that word. And give me the strength to do it, Lord." We can change this crazy world. And this city can be an example for others if each of us really decides in our hearts that we are going to make the effort to reach out and touch someone, touch their heart. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE**

**Psalm 145:1-7:** *I will exalt you, my God and King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you, and exalt in you for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of your glorious splendor and your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.*