

**INSPIRED WORD**  
**September 16, 2015**

**PRAYER**

Lord, we praise You tonight and we lift up our hearts and minds to You. We give every breath to You tonight, Lord. We ask that You would infill us with Your Holy Spirit, and that You would be with those who are traveling to be with us tonight, and also with those who are just away in other parts of their lives. Meet them where they are at, we pray, Lord. We ask that You would strengthen our intercessions, strengthen our faith, and strengthen our listening, Lord. We ask all this in Your holy Name, Jesus! Amen.

**WORD OF KNOWLEDGE / PROPHECY / EXHORTATION**

For someone here, you are tired, you are exhausted, and you are beat. But God's answer to you is: "Let Me be your God!" And for another person here, your prayer life has deteriorated slightly, although you are not doing any wrong in particular, except "Let God be God!" In other words, don't hand Him a 'shopping list', as that is doing it backwards. **Instead, ask for His will in your life.** Ask for His will in the circumstances and then it is alright for you to give Him your 'shopping list' because then you are telling Him what your concerns are. But don't give God a 'shopping list' as if you are telling Him what to do. **Let God be God!!**

**SCRIPTURE / PRAYER**

**Psalm 68: 1 – 10:** "Let God arise, may His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee before Him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. Sing to God, sing praises to His Name; lift up a song to Him Who rides upon the clouds – His Name is the Lord – and rejoice before Him. A Father to the fatherless, a Defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation. God gives the desolate a home to live in; He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land. O God, when You went out before Your people, when You marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the Presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the Presence of God, the God of Israel. You gave abundant showers, O God; You refreshed Your weary inheritance. Your people settled in it, and in Your goodness, O God, You provided for the needy." Father, we thank You because You have done all of these things for us before we even thought of asking for them. We ask that You continue to show Your benevolence and Your good works to us. Lord, we praise You, we exalt You, and we magnify Your holy Name! For You alone are worthy, You are worthy of all honor and glory, and praise be to Your holy Name! You are the Most High God, You are the King of kings, and you are the Holy Lamb of God!!

**SCRIPTURE**

**Exodus 15: 1 – 3, 11 – 14:** "Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted. The horse and its rider He has hurled

into the sea. The Lord is my Strength and my Song; He has become my Salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him. The Lord is a Warrior, the Lord is His Name." Then it goes on to talk about what the Lord did with Pharaoh and his army. Then it continues: "Who among the gods is like You, O Lord? Who is like You – majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? You stretched out Your right hand and the earth swallowed them. In Your unfailing love You will lead the people You have redeemed. In Your strength You will guide them to Your holy dwelling. The nations will hear and tremble." Then it goes on along those lines. But it just talks about the majesty, holiness and strength of the Lord and He is indeed our Salvation.

### **EXHORTATION**

In that last song we sang, "Lord, I am amazed by You and how You love me", and I think that the Lord is asking us right now to reflect on our past week. Sometimes it can be very busy and hectic, but let Him bring to your mind an amazing way that He showed His love for you this past week. Whether it was a moment of peace in the midst of busyness, whether it was a prayer that was answered when you least expected it, whether it was a sunrise or a sunset which you knew that only He could make, or whether it was a gift of the Holy Spirit in which He used you to minister to others. Lets take a few minutes now to think about the ways in which we have been amazed by the Lord and to realize His love for us this past week. Recall that time this past week when He did indeed love you.

### **SHARING**

I am just amazed anew by the reality that God, in all of His power and in all of Who He is, would come and die for us; to give Himself in every way possible so that we could have life in abundance.

### **SCRIPTURE / SENSE / PROPHECY**

**Psalm 142:** "I call to the Lord for help; I plead with Him. I bring Him all my complaints; I tell Him all of my troubles. When I am ready to give up, He knows what I should do. In the path where I walk, my enemies have hidden a trap for me. When I look beside me, I see that there is no one to help me, no one to protect me. No one cares for me. Lord, I cry to You for help; You, Lord, are my Protector; You are all I want in this life. Listen to my cry for help, for I am sunk in despair. Save me from my enemies; they are too strong for me. Set me free from my distress; then in the assembly of Your people I will praise You because of Your goodness to me." The sense which came with that is this: There might be one or two people here in this assembly tonight who have cried out to the Lord in distress or whatever the circumstances are in their lives. And here and now, the Lord answers that call and He says, "**I have heard you! I have heard your cry for help, your cry to Me, and I have not forgotten you.** I take you by the hand and I raise you up. **Trust in Me!** Give to Me all of those problems, give to Me that which causes you despair, give to Me that which makes you weary! **I love you and I will not let you go. I am your Stronghold; I am your Protector!!**

## SHARING / EXHORTATION

There have been a lot of words said tonight which are asking us to surrender. A lot of our songs tonight have been about surrendering – “I give You my heart”, “I am giving You my dreams”, “I am giving up my rights, my pride, for the promise of new life”. Another song said, “I give You my heart, I give You my soul, I live for You alone”. I think that it comes back to a statement that Antonio made tonight. He said something profound and it has been on my mind all night long. He said, “**I am able to overcome myself.**” I keep thinking about all of this surrender, but for me at least, that can only happen if I am able to **overcome myself**. As Deacon Chuck was reading from **Psalm 142**, the words which popped out at me were these: “When I am ready to give up”. Surrendering is like giving up, but not giving up as in quitting as that is a negative thing. But it is the ‘turning over’, and **that will happen when we are able to overcome ourselves**, as Antonio had said about his life. It will happen when we overcome wanting to be our own savior, and come to the realization that **Jesus is our Savior**. He is the One Who saves! He is the ‘dream-giver’! He is greater than we who are in this world.

## CONFIRMATION

I want to confirm what Laura just said. I had never thought of surrendering as quitting, but I thought of it as when a soldier surrenders, he surrenders to a stronger power and can stop fighting. It is like saying that ‘You are stronger than me’.