

INSPIRED WORD
January 17, 2018

PRAYER

Lord, we just offer this night to You. You know our hearts. You know everything there is about us. You know our distractions; You know our joys. We give them all to You tonight, and we ask that You would make them holy, set apart for You.

PRAYER

Nothing is going to distract us from praising You tonight, Lord. We're small in numbers, Lord, but our heart is big. Our heart is big and filled with praise for You, Lord. We know, Lord, that You are here with us, in the midst of the difficulties that we face during the day, in the midst of the trials, in the midst of the things that try to weigh us down, Lord. We know that You're there. So we know, Lord, that You're here with us tonight. We come, Lord, not for us but to praise You. We come here, Lord, with our hearts opened wide, with our minds opened wide, with our arms opened wide, Lord. We say come, Lord, come. Be in our presence, Lord. Give us the strength, give us the courage, give us the will, Lord, to praise You this night. We come before You; we take all the burdens of this day; we take all the burdens of this week; we take all the burdens of this month, Lord, and we place them at Your feet. And we ask You, Lord, to keep those there. Don't let us take them back, Lord. Let us use this time, Lord, to draw closer to You, to praise You from our hearts. Lord, we thank You for Your presence and in Your holy name we pray.

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 18:1-19: *I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, so I shall be saved from my enemies. The cords of death encompassed me, the torrents of perdition assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me, the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears. Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry. Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. He bowed the heavens, and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. He rode on a cherub, and flew; he came swiftly upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness his covering around him, his canopy thick clouds dark with water. Out of the brightness before him there broke through the clouds hailstones and coals of fire. The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered his voice,*

hailstones and coals of fire. He sent out his arrows and scattered them; he flashed forth lightnings, and routed them. Then the channels of the sea were seen, and the foundations of the world were laid bare, at your rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils. He reached down from on high, he took me, he drew me out of the mighty waters. He delivered me from my strong enemies and those who hated me; for they were too mighty for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity; but the Lord was my support. He brought me into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

1 Peter 2:1-7: *Therefore, lay aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking. As newborn babes desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. Come to him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by man but chosen by God and precious. You also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is also contained in the scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect and precious, and he who believes in him will by no means be put to shame. Therefore, to you who believe, he is precious, but to those who are disobedient, the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone."* Lord Jesus, we just thank You for the work You've done upon us in this place, and we just ask that You show us the way that You want us to go, and that You will pour out Your Spirit upon us. You will pour out Your Spirit upon us this night. You will pour out Your Spirit upon us and we will just praise and exalt and magnify Your name. For You are the King, the righteous King of kings, righteous in all Your ways, righteous in every way. We praise and exalt and magnify Your holy name. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb, the holy risen Lamb of God, righteous and true, pure and holy in all Your ways. Praise be to the holy Lord. Halleluiah to the Lamb, righteous in all Your ways.

PRAYER

Lord, with our limited words, it's difficult to describe You, Lord. It's difficult to talk about Your magnificence, Lord. It's difficult just from our limited vocabulary. We thank You, Lord. We know You're alive and You're here, Lord. We know You're indescribable. We know that when we look at this creation that You give us, we marvel and we know You gave it to us, Lord, so that we can see Your love. And we thank You for that, Lord. We thank You for the ways that You give us a glimpse of who You are. We thank You for the ways that You give us glimpses of Your forgiveness and Your salvation. Thank You, Lord, for the ways that You reach out and touch us, for the ways that You touch our minds and hearts. We thank You, Lord, for Your caring and Your concern, for Your nurturing, Your mercy upon us. We thank You, Lord, for Your touch, for Your healing. We thank You, Lord, for Your very presence here with us tonight and within each one of us, Lord. Lord, every time we see something new in Your creation, let us marvel and give You praise. Let us give You thanks; let us give You glory. In Your holy name we pray.

SCRIPTURE

From the letter to the **Hebrews 1:1-13**: *In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs. For to what angel did God ever say, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "Who makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever, the righteous scepter is the scepter of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, thy God, has anointed thee with the oil of gladness beyond thy comrades." And, "Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand?" And just a little bit later it asks this question **(2:2)**: *For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?**

WORD OF WISDOM

The word that popped to me that she read was "the one who holds the universe". That is the utmost of strength and how is it that we don't trust when He is our strength?

PRAYER

Every time we fall down, You pick us up, Lord. How many times? How many times in a single day do You do that? How many times, Lord, do You reach down from on high and You see us in distress and You see us faltering? You see us, Lord, with a burden we can't carry and You pick us up. How many times, Lord, when we're dry during the day and You fill our cup? And Lord, how many times do we not hold out the cup for You to fill, but You still reach down and You find it, Lord, and You fill it because You care for us? Thank You, Lord, for reaching down to pick us up each time we fall. Thank You, Lord, for filling our cup when we're dry. Thank You, Lord, for never abandoning us. Thank You, Lord, for always being by our side. Thank You, Lord.

SCRIPTURE

From the letter to the **Colossians 1:15-20**: *He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creatures; in him, everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and*

invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers – all were created through him and for him. He is before all else that is, and in him everything continues in being. It is he who is head of the body, the church; he who is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that primacy may be his in everything. It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in him, and by means of him to reconcile everything in his person, both on earth and in the heavens, making peace through the blood of his cross.

WORD OF WISDOM

God never forsakes us. He's always there with us. Even though we go through trials and tribulations of the sword, God is with us.

PRAYER

Lord, we do strive to have Your praise ever on our lips. Lord, we thank You that in the midst of the story we just heard, that they praise You, they give You thanks, they ask for the people who did this to them, Lord, they pray for them. They raise them up to You, Lord. They give them the opportunity, Lord, to find You, in the midst of tragedy, Lord. Our brother gave us the example of how we should turn to You. We ask for that same strength, Lord. We ask that in the midst of those times that we face, to face them with love, Lord, to face them knowing that You are bigger than anything that can happen to us and does happen to us. Give us the strength to know that in every situation You are there. You care about each second of each day in every one of our lives, Lord. Help us to know that in our heart. Help us to spread love even in the midst of tragedy, even in the midst of wrongdoing, even in the midst of hurtful words, Lord. Help us to spread Your love. Let Your praise, Lord, be ever on our lips.

SHARING

These things that happen to us are very much reminders of how much we need God.