

INSPIRED WORD
January 24, 2018

PRAYER

Thank You for enabling us to come here tonight, to come into this holy place, and to give You praise and worship for who You are, mighty God, mighty God. God of the universe, but One Who stoops to love us and whispers that love in our ears and pours forth that love into our hearts. So, Lord, help us to look to You tonight; help us to sacrifice this time in praise of Your holy name. You love us, Lord, You love us, You love us. Glory to You.

EXHORTATION / IMAGE

As we continue in praise and worship, as we breathe in the Holy Spirit, breathe in that Holy Spirit, and then what do we want to do? We want to let something out, don't we? We want to let the living waters come out; we want to let it out in song and praise and worship, in loud song and praise and worship. There's something about that that just rocks the room and touches the heart of God. So are you ready? You know, I heard more than us singing when we were singing that last song. I think angels might be with us, what do you think? Right!

SHARING / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

I was talking to our sister Barb earlier and she has endured a loss of someone in her workplace and it brought me in mind to the Father-heart of God. And it's the Father-heart of God that sometimes we don't have to seek; He's always right there. And it put me in mind of **Malachi 4:5-6**: *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers.* Father, we just pray that You give each of us, as You ordained, the heart of the Father. Bring us the heart of the Father that we might turn the hearts of the children to the Father. We just pray for that. We entreat You that You would cause that in our lives. We just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name. We pray for the heart of the Father, the Father-heart of God; we pray in Jesus' name. We pray You give us that Father-heart of God, the Father-heart that would give us the proper approach to Your throne. As we come before Your throne, we praise and exalt and magnify Your holy name, for You alone are worthy. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb, worthy the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Worthy, worthy, worthy the Father-heart that sent the Lamb to die for our sins, and we just thank You and praise You and magnify Your holy name. Worthy are You and worthy, worthy, worthy is the King of kings, worthy, worthy, worthy in all Your ways. Halleluiah to the King, the King of kings, the righteous Lamb of God.

PRAYER

Lord, You walk among us – welcome, welcome, Lord.

SCRIPTURE

This is from the book of **Joel 3:16**: *And the Lord roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shake. The Lord is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel.* And who is the voice of the Lord today? We are. I'm going to read this again, a little bit differently. "And the Lord roars from Holy Apostles, and utters his voice from Colorado Springs, and the heavens and the earth shake. The Lord is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Colorado." **Joel 3:18**: *And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the stream beds of (Colorado) shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord and water the (plains of our city).*

SHARING

I would like to share something; I don't know if this is a thanksgiving or not but it's bizarre. So me and Bob were at church this weekend, Saturday night mass, and we were sitting on that side over there so nobody could see us. And I thought I smelled incense throughout half the mass, from the beginning of mass up until communion. And I talked to someone after who was working the church and I said, "You know, it was very strong and I kept wanting to cough and I had just a dry throat and I couldn't really talk that much. Was there incense being burned through mass?" I didn't see anything up here but I thought maybe they had it behind the door because it was pretty strong sometimes. And he's like, "No, we didn't have any incense at all." And I told Bob that I couldn't really sing that well at church because of incense, and he looked at me like I was crazy. So I looked it up on Google and other people have had that experience as well, and it's like the Holy Spirit was just really profound. And I hadn't had any chemicals; I had just come in from outside and I smelled something. So I really had an experience that I didn't really understand but it was really cool because like I said, it lasted from the beginning of mass up through communion, then it dissipated.

WORD OF WISDOM

And what is incense but our prayers rising like incense before the Lord. And that can be at a liturgy because His grace comes down. Our prayers rise and His grace comes down, and it blesses us and helps us become more holy and want to worship Him more, and our prayers rise more and His grace comes down. And it becomes this cycle of holiness. But it's not a circle. The holiness journey is not a circle; it's more of a spiral. And it keeps going greater and greater because God is greater and greater. And as we're able to receive more of Him, He's able to do more with us. We don't do things to earn His love, we respond to His love; and He uses us even more, because we're more like Him. So let's pray this next song. It's a prayer

asking for grace and acknowledging grace, because grace is a fancy 5-letter word for love. That's really all it is – a 5-letter word for love.

PROPHECY / EXHORTATION

In that song of praise and worship, we sang, “Jesus, I thank You for all that You’ve done for me.” And as we sang those words, I just felt like it’s so easy just to sing those words, “Jesus, I thank You for all that You’ve done for me.” And I heard Him say, “What is it that you’re thankful for? What is it that I did for you today that you’re thankful for? What is it that you want Me to do for you now?” In the very beginning, Matt said that Jesus comes to break every chain, and as He comes to be with us, He wants to break every chain. But right now there may be a particular chain, and if you just have one that’s holding you back from giving your heart to Him completely, just say, “Jesus, please break that chain. Whether it’s fear for my health, whether it’s my family relationships, whether it’s my job, whether it’s just not being mindful of You during the day, I ask You to break that chain, Lord, and so that when I sing that song, as I go out of this place, I can truly sing, ‘Jesus, I thank You for all that You’ve done for me.’”

SENSE / IMAGE / SCRIPTURE

I’ve been hearing some gentle words from the Lord about how what we allow to take root in our hearts effects us and everyone around us. And I just see an image of God’s heart, over all of us in here, and His love streaming down to each of us. And then I was hearing something out of **Proverbs 4:20-22**: *My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to him who finds them, and healing to all his flesh.* And I just see each of our hearts as that sanctuary with God’s love streaming down.

EXHORTATION

I’d like to invite you for a moment to close your eyes. I think we can figure this song out. It’s one line. And just open your hands on your lap. And we’re going to sing it a couple more times and from your heart, just give God permission to be present right now, right here, and to surround you with His love. (“Surround me, O Lord. Let Your presence fill this place.”) This time when we sing it, instead of “fill this place”, sing, “fill my heart.”

PRAYER

Lord, we just listen for Your voice. Speak to our hearts and into our minds.

SHARING

I thank God for that song. My sister and her husband have been very much on my mind, and there’s nothing I can do but pray for them. But it helped a lot to put their names in: “Surround Bob and Maryanne, let Your presence fill their hearts.” Very much a sense of peace.

SHARING / EXHORTATION

This past weekend we got to spend an afternoon with three little girls, ages 4, 5 and 6. And the youngest little girl was a cuddler, and she really wanted to sit on her dad's lap. But his back was bothering him really badly so he said, "I can't have you sit on my lap because my back hurts too bad right now, honey," and he puts his arm out, "but you can hug my arm." And she wrapped herself around his arm like a lemur monkey; she just wrapped herself up in it. And she was just contented. And I know this is a random image but sometimes God calls us so that we can find our way to His lap; we can sit right close. Sometimes that's a harder place to be. So He just sticks out His arm and says, "Come on – arm hug." And we can wrap ourselves around that if that's what we need that night. It's enough. And it's that love. Our Father in heaven has that kind of love. What father among you would give his son a stone if he asked for a fish (**Matthew 7:9-10**)? He loves us that much. Hang on to that arm. Pull it in tight; wrap ourselves around it. Take it through our day and our evening and our life. Walk with Him by your side. Come on, Dad, let's go. Come on, Dad. He's got a big adventure for us, cool places He wants to take us to see and do. We gotta go with Him.

IMAGE / CONFIRMATION

What Denise shared earlier, and before we ever came here for the very first time, I was granted a vision where I saw Colorado Springs as a spring - springs springing up out of the ground. There was just a network of springs, and there were all kinds of springs over the Springs, gushing up, and it was coming up. The vision was never accomplished the way my expectation was but it was just almost like you were sharing about the mountain and the springs and everything else. It's like there were these springs gushing up all over; it was just coming up all over town and it was coming out of Woodland Park, the mountain, and down into the valley, and it was just a network of little springs coming together in the Springs. And it's been over 12 years, at least, and I just wanted to give that affirmation and that witness to what you said.

SCRIPTURE

And from **Ephesians 4:1-6**, this is St. Paul talking: *I then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. One body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

SHARING

It just struck me in that song that we talked about the waves of His mercy and "deep calls out to deep". I'm not quite sure what that part means, but the waves of His mercy... we want to be in the wave, under the wave, let it wash over us. And yet in the song we sang maybe right

before that we talked about keeping our eyes above the waves, and those are the wrong waves. I don't know if we put out a protection or something to those waves, the waves of this world, because no, we don't want to get sucked under by those. But we need to let all those protective barriers come down when we're dealing with the Lord. Let His waves wash over us and don't protect yourselves from them because those are like the good waves. Anyway, it just kind of struck me as a juxtaposition between both of those visions of waves.

SHARING

I love the line that "deep calls out to deep" and I've had to reflect on it a lot because it's kind of a weird one. But for me what that means is that the deep part of our soul reaches out to the depth that is the Lord, the depth that is like without bottom, so bigger than we can imagine. And in the waves of His mercy, when we submit to that and we relax into that, that part of us which is tied to God and His soul, and our hearts speak to Him in that place and in that quiet.

SHARING

I'd like to sing the chorus of the Prayer of Augustine because it talks about what we're talking about, which is "my heart searches restlessly until it rests in You, Lord."

SHARING

There's a song in my head that keeps going around and around: "Spring up a well deep in my soul. Spring up a well; it will make me whole. Spring up a well, and give to me new life abundantly." That's an old gospel song but it kept on coming: "Spring up a well deep in my soul." And that deepness... it comes deep within our soul, that we can rejoice in God and bring Him that well. We're talking about springs and bringing that life that's in us to share with others, in my soul, that I may share to others that well, that love, that goodness that God has given us. "Spring up a well."

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

And in confirmation of all those things that have come forward, in **John 7:37-38**, we hear: *On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"*

IMAGE / EXHORTATION / PRAYER

For a long time during this praise gathering I've had this image in my mind and the image is that of an arm stretched out, and at first I thought it might be someone who needs healing in that wrist or that arm but I think it's much more than that. I think it's reaching out for Jesus, that here in this place the Lord sees us stretching out our hand and reaching out to Him, like Peter reached out to Him as he walked across the water and was sinking (**Matthew 14:29-30**). Jesus stands ready to grab our hand; Jesus stands ready to grab our arm; Jesus stands ready to lift

us up; Jesus stands ready to bring us out of wherever we are, whether it be despair, whether it be doubt, whether it be sickness, whether it be pain, Jesus stretches His hand and grabs our arm. Here, now, O Lord, into Your mighty hand we place ours, from the circumstances of life, from the circumstances of pain, from the circumstances of doubt, from the circumstances of desiring other than You, Lord. We reach out to You, we reach out to You. Take us, take us by the hand, Lord, and lift us up. Take us, Jesus, and guide us along the way. Take us, Jesus, along that path that leads into Your heart of love. Take us, Jesus, we reach out for You, and You don't let us fall. Glory to You, O Jesus, Savior God.

PRAYER

As we get ready to leave this gathering tonight, Lord, let Your living water flow from our hearts, touching with love, touching with healing, touching with encouragement all those that we meet, this day and this week. May almighty God bless all of you, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.