

INSPIRED WORD

June 7, 2017

PRAYER

We praise You for Pentecost last week. Lord, we thank You for all that You've done in our lives, in our seminars, in our hearts, our community, and our world. We thank You for sending Your Spirit. Help us to be open to receive. You are Lord of heaven and earth. We adore You; we glorify You; we praise You; we thank You. In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

Happy birthday, Church! Pentecost, right? Before we begin, let's get our hearts ready. How do we get our hearts ready? We have barriers and burdens in the way that maybe take too much of our emotion, too much of our thinking, too much of our attention, too much of our strength. Let's set it all aside, put it by the cross of Jesus, by the heart of Jesus. Give it all to Him. And while we are standing by the heart of Jesus who loves us so much, let's love like He does and forgive whatever is still not forgiven in our hearts; these are the barriers to love. I invite you to a minute or so of silence. At the beginning of our meeting, taken from what the Pope said: The Holy Spirit is the fire of love burning in the Church and in our hearts, even though we (...) with the ashes of our sins. And so, the Spirit of God dwells in our hearts and in the heart of the Church, guiding and shaping her in diversity. Come, like water; come down upon us anew. Teach us unity. Renew our hearts and teach us to love as You love us and to forgive as You forgive. Amen.

SHARING / PRAYER

We just got back from a trip that my wife and I had planned and talked about for years, to go see the redwood trees in California. And if you've never done that, to see the beauty of God's creation and nature which He's given us, you need to. I just want to say thank You, Lord, for that creation and thank You, Lord, for a safe trip there and back. And thank You, Lord, for the beauty that You've given us that we take for granted. Help us never to do that, Lord. Amen.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

We don't want to be a silent people, Lord. We want to proclaim Your glory. We're loved. Who is loved here? Everybody, right? And in that knowledge of being loved by the Lord, we do have that joy that nothing can take from us, because nothing can take His love from us. So here we are, Lord, reveling in that fact, that we are Your sons and daughters, Father, sons and daughters gathered here. I don't want a garment of heaviness, do you guys? We praise Your holy name. How many hope to change their hearts as we just sang there? Because we enter into a reality that's true, you know, with the joy of the Lord, as we praise Him and as we enter into that, then joy comes. You pour forth Your oil of gladness upon us, Lord. Thank You! Holy

Spirit, continue to do that. Touch our hearts and give us that desire to praise You, that desire to change weight from one foot to the other, called dancing.

SHARING

I just wanted to share a prophecy that came out last Sunday when we were doing intercessory prayer. And it's just that we're in the hands of God. And when we have that moment to moment acceptance of the Holy Spirit, we're in the state of grace. And being in His hands is just wonderful.

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

From the **Second Letter of Timothy 1:6-11**: *I'm reminding you now to stand and proclaim the gifts of God that you possess with the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control, so that you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to our Lord, or ashamed of me for being His prisoner, but share my hardships for the sake of the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us to be holy, not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. The grace has already been granted to us in Christ Jesus since the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed only through the appearance of our Savior Jesus Christ. He abolished death and he brought to life and immortality to light through the gospel. As his servants, we have been made heralds, apostles and teachers. Everyone in this room has had the laying on of hands and the gift of the Holy Spirit. And if you haven't, please grab someone tonight and let's make that happen, that laying on of hands, because it's time. We need His strength and that power and that grace. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

From **Romans 3:21-24**: *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law has been made known to which the law and prophets testify. This righteousness of God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

SHARING / EXHORTATION

It came to my mind when Ray was talking about the great tall trees of northern California that it's amazing and so very obvious that a great God created these trees. But we live in Colorado and we can just open our eyes, driving down the road, and there's the mountains and the great beauty that's here. Everywhere where people are, I think, there's a magnificent story of creation. But just have to open our eyes. Sometimes we just go about our day and we don't realize the beauty in the people that we meet, the creation of God. We should be amazed every day.

CONFIRMATION / SHARING / SCRIPTURE

I confirm that too. During one of the songs I was just getting a vision of mountains, and also reflecting on what Ray was speaking about. This past weekend I went back to visit family and we ended up going through several states and it was just absolutely gorgeous country, and the animals. And I was just thinking about all that the Lord does provide for us. **Psalm 8:1-9:** *O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have ordained your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants, you have ordained praise. Because of your enemies, the silence will fall on the avengers. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You have made him no lower than heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him ruler over the works of your hands and put everything under his feet, all the flocks and herds and beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, all that swims in the paths of the sea. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.*

SHARING

I was thinking about the cedars of Lebanon when Ray talked about the redwoods that go so far you can't see the top of them. The cedars of Lebanon were considered one of the seven wonders of the world. And they were very similar to those kinds of trees and they grew in huge groves. In the Middle East, there are not a lot of large trees. Can you imagine when lightning hits a redwood? It just cracks! That's our God; He's that big; He's that good. And yet He calls us to come to Him and live for Him and open our hearts to Him.

SENSE / SCRIPTURE

Right before that song started I got the sense that the Lord was saying, "Yes, My beloved, I know that My creation is magnificent and that it is beautiful. For I have declared it good. But do not forget, My beloved, that you are also My creation and I consider you more beautiful than any other." And the sense that I got was that the Lord was speaking to each one of you, each one of us personally, saying to you, "Dan, Linda, Janice, Rick, Greg, Eleanor, you are beautiful. You are magnificent. You see the trees and you admire their beauty; you see the mountains and the plains and you admire their beauty. Look at yourself and admire the beauty." And then I was led to **John 17:9-13** where Jesus is praying to the Father. And you know, He's not praying on behalf of the mountains or the trees or the oceans or the fishes. He's praying to the Father about you, about me, about us, when He says, *"I am asking on their behalf. I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours; all mine are yours and all yours are mine, and I have been glorified by them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name, that you have given me, that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name, that which you have given me; I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except for the one destined to be lost. But now I*

am coming to you; and I speak these things in the world, so they may have joy made complete in themselves.” So admire the beauty of God’s creation but forget not to admire yourself.

SCRIPTURE

And to go a little further with the personalization of God’s love for us, that song is based a lot on **Psalm 139:1-10** and the psalmist says what we can say, *“O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it’s so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.”*

SHARING

I do see the beauty in God’s creation but I look at it another way too. When you’re climbing a mountain and you get almost to the top, you see those trees growing above timberline, and their strength and their ability to withstand every kind of wind and weather that’s on them all the time, day and night. And it kind of makes me think about how the weather and the wind blow on us. And you see these trees, and the way they are growing. You can tell the wind is going a certain direction because they’re growing in a certain way. And we have strength; the Lord gives us strength because the winds of life are always blowing on us and weathering us but we are able to withstand and we’re able to be strong.

IMAGE

I’m getting an image of Jesus just breathing on us so when the winds of life come and physical things, Jesus is just breathing the breath of life.

SCRIPTURE

I’m getting this to go with all that was said, from the end of **Ephesians 6:10-18**: *Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having fastened the belt of truth around your waist and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace, besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the*

word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

(Reflections on the recent Life in the Spirit Seminar)

SCRIPTURE

To reinforce the words of that song, here's **Psalm 117:1-2**: *Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us; and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Praise the Lord!*