

## **INSPIRED WORD**

**July 3, 2019**

### **PRAYER**

Praise you, Lord! Lord, we are so grateful for what You've done in our lives. We're grateful for what You've done in our land. We're grateful for the freedom that You've given us. Lord, we're grateful for the men and women who have given their lives so that we can stand here and be free to praise and worship You. Thank You, Lord!

### **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, we just ask that You pour forth Your grace on this place tonight, Lord, Your mercy, Your love, Your healing power, to meet all needs here, Lord, tonight. O Jesus, we indeed trust in You. We trust in Your love for each and every person. We trust in Your love for us, for all present. We thank You, Lord. We thank You for being here tonight. Send Your Spirit upon us, Lord, so that we might worship You freely from the depths of our heart. Glory to You, Jesus, glory to You.

### **PRAYER**

Where You lead, Lord, we can be sure that we are secure, secure in Your love, secure in Your strength, secure in Your wisdom. Glory to You, Jesus! Your people welcome You, Jesus.

### **PRAYER**

Lord, show us what we need to lay down more than anything else at Your feet tonight. Help us to do that by the gift of Your grace. You call us, Lord, to surrender and to make You first and foremost. Help us to do that, Lord. Show us where, where in our lives we need to lay it down, lay it down at Your feet tonight, Lord Jesus.

### **PRAYER**

All circumstances, Jesus, are in Your hands. We have no need, O Lord, to fear; no need because all circumstances, O Jesus, are in Your hands and we give You praise here tonight, Lord. We raise up Your holy name, the name of Jesus, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, mighty God, our Good Shepherd. Awesome are You! Praise You, Jesus!

### **SHARING**

I'm going to tell you a little story about what happened to me on Sunday. I'm a Eucharistic Minister so I was taking Holy Communion to a parishioner who's homebound. And his daughter was in the background. And she usually stays in the back but this time she came out. She was so sick; she had lost all her hair, her eyebrows, her eyelashes. I said, "What is going on?" She says, "I got diagnosed with breast cancer three years ago, and this is my tenth round

of chemo.” I said, “Oh, do you want to pray?” She’s like, “But... but I’m a Baptist.” “It doesn’t matter. You’re a child of God and if you want to pray, I’ll pray with you.” So we prayed and then we cried. She’s like, “But I didn’t think that Catholics dealt with other religions.” I’m like, “Where do you get that? We’re all children of God. Jesus is Jesus.” So we prayed. And come to find out that she works at the same place where I work. And she said she had no PTO left so she wasn’t getting paid. So I went to talk to human resources and I gave her some of my vacation. Her boss called and told her that this lady had donated two weeks, 80 hours, of PTO to her. And she emailed me, “Oh my God, you Catholics are so nice.” I said, “We’re all nice – Baptist, Catholic, Jewish. Everybody is nice.” I went to meet her father to give him communion and we prayed and there she is hiding in the background. And she’s thinking, “Do you have time for me, Catholic?” “I have time for you.” So spread the love. It doesn’t matter what the religion is. Spread the love. Praise God!

### **SCRIPTURE**

We were singing “O God, you are my strength” and the first lines of **Psalms 27:1-2** say: *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life’s refuge; of whom should I be afraid?*

### **CONFIRMATION / PROPHECY**

I confirm that. The word I was getting before was “fear not”. “Fear not. My grace is poured forth upon you here. Fear not. Come to me.”

### **SHARING**

I feel the spirit of ecumenism wafting over me right now. I’ve told this story here before and it’s especially appropriate to me coming up on the Fourth. I was in Viet Nam as an 18-year-old kid. And we were about to go out on the line from our support base and this Catholic priest wanted to give us communion. And I said, “Father, I’m not Catholic.” And he says, “Well, you’re a Christian, aren’t you?” And I said, “Yeah.” And the man’s name was Father Murphy. I have an Irish background so it especially warmed my heart. So I said, “Well, yeah, I’ll take communion. Absolutely!” And he gave me communion along with the rest of the gentlemen there. And then we went out into the line and it was especially heart-warming for me because I was a hardcore, hard-shell Baptist at the time. And it was just the way I was and you should talk to my wife sometime, just how hard-shell a Baptist I was. Anyway, that’s my little story.

### **SHARING / SCRIPTURE**

Last week I was given the word “peacock” and went on to share what I thought that meant. And then I received confirmation tonight of that which I really appreciated. And a couple psalms entered tonight, the Lord gave me these verses from scripture. And one thing I didn’t share about the peacock was that when the fans open, the tail, the little round circle parts are called eyes, where the bright colors are. And one of the symbolisms that it mentioned while I was reading is that those are considered like the eyes of God. And so the verses that He gave

me tonight are from **Psalm 32 and 33**: *You will instruct us and teach us the way we should go; you will counsel us with your eye upon us (23:8). The Lord looks down from heave, he sees all the sons of men; from where he sits enthroned he looks forth on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds (33:13-15). Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who trust in him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death, and keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield. Yea, our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name. Let thy steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in thee (33:18-22).*

### **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE / SCRIPTURE**

I had the strong sense that this scripture is for someone here tonight. It's from **Isaiah 30:20-21**: *The Lord will make you go through hard times but he himself will be there to teach you and you will not have to search for him anymore. If you wander off the road to the right or to the left, you will hear his voice behind you saying, "Here is the road; follow it."*

### **CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE**

In relation to several of the songs we sang tonight and part of what Denise shared, this is a portion of **Psalm 25:1-10**: *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame. Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth, and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right, and teaches them his way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful, for those who keep his covenant.*

### **CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE**

If I may, I'd like to add some words of confirmation to everything that's been said here tonight about the love of the Father, the awesomeness of God in the psalms, and that God loved us so much that He sent His holy Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross, and why the Creator of heaven and earth would do all this for us and loves us so much. And wherever we're sharing, we're being the light of Christ to each other. And God sees us no matter how much the world bats us around and tries to distract us from His holy love. There are two verses in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament that says we're God's precious jewels. In **Malachi 3:16-17** and **Zachariah 9:16** it says we're the jewels in His crown. And that's how much love the Father has for each one of us. In **Revelation 21:1**, it says the same thing, that God loves us so much.

### **PROPHECY / EXHPRTATION**

Before we came out, the word I had before this meeting began was: "When my people cry out to me, I will hear them. When my people cry out to me this night, I will hear them." Let those

words be a prayer of your heart. Cry out to God, cry out to Him. Cry out to Him the needs that you have, the needs of your family, the needs of others, and the needs of the nation. Cry out to Him tonight. "When my people cry out to me, I will hear them."

### **CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE**

I'd like to confirm that song right before that because there was something in there about hearing the prayers of our generation and I thought the word "generation" sounded familiar because in the scripture I was given earlier tonight, a part I didn't read from **Psalms 33**, it says: *The counsel of the Lord stands for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen (vs.11-12).*

### **SHARING / SCRIPTURE**

I was given a little reflection today from Father Crump and there was a section in it that really spoke to what we were talking about earlier of leading from the heart and ecumenism, which is reaching across boundaries, usually artificial boundaries. And it says: "Focus on how you can change and serve others, not on how others need to change. Introduce people to Jesus before you try to get them to obey him. Let's catch the fish before we clean them." And the context was the upper room, when Jesus appeared to the apostles, and a whole bunch of them were there and they saw the risen Christ. But Thomas was out and about and comes back and thinks they've all lost their minds. So what followed was six days of fighting because they said, "We saw the Lord." And he says, "How could you? He's dead. I would have to see him in the flesh. This is what I would need to believe he's real." So after six days, Jesus did come and he gave Thomas what he needed and what he asked for. And after that came peace because Jesus came and declared peace (**John 20:19-29**). And He shows Thomas what he asked for and nothing tore those men apart again. They bled and died with Jesus' name on their lips, all in unity that they saw Jesus risen from the dead. And so here we are 2000 years later, a lot like those first six days, yelling at each other in a hot crowd of social media world, anxious to get everybody on the level we perceive we're at, shouting our opinions into the void. But one day, one day Jesus will come and He will again declare peace, and He'll meet us wherever we are and lead us to heaven if we let Him. So in the meantime, let's just chill out a bit, flip that model and let's make peace now through love and service and introducing people to the risen Christ, so that we're ready when He comes again. Heal our land, Lord, heal our land.

### **PRAYER**

Lord, we thank You for Your holy presence, Your touch tonight. Once again, we lift up our nation and celebrate its independence tomorrow. Bring healing, Lord, and help her, this country of America, be the nation that You have destined her to be. We pray in Your name, Jesus, for that.