

**INSPIRED WORD**  
**July 31, 2019**

**Sharing thanksgivings**  
**Thoughts from charismatic conference**

**PRAYER**

Jesus, we're here to worship you tonight and lift up Your holy name on high. Lord, we thank You; we thank You for the action You have in our lives, for those things that we gave testimony to before, for the work that You will do tonight among us, for the Holy Spirit that You will pour down upon us this evening, for the healing and the strengthening that You will do for Your people here tonight. And Lord, we open our hearts to hear You and to accept the love that You have for us, to be vessels of Your holy glory through Your gifts for one another. We give You praise.

**PRAYER**

O Lord, enable us to give You our hearts in surrender. Come, Spirit of the living God. You first, O Lord. Bring us in, Lord. You say to come close. Bring us in, Lord. Give us the grace to give You our hearts here now. Bring us close, Lord. Make us willing vessels of Your grace here tonight. Pour forth Your Holy Spirit on each and every one. Release Your gifts, O God, upon Your people.

**SCRIPTURE / PRAYER**

There are two verses that the Lord gave me tonight. **Psalm 116:15** (and it's in the original language when it talks about His saints, it's talking about those committed to God): *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints*. In all the world tonight, there are people who have given up their lives, given up their lives for the purpose of the gospel. And the other verse is **Psalm 72:14**: *He will redeem their life from oppression and violence and precious shall be their blood in his sight*. Father, we thank You that You look upon us in our trials, in our tribulations. We thank You that You look upon the blood of Your saints with such tender compassion. And we praise You and exalt You 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. Halleluiah to the Lamb!

**PRAYER**

And Lord, we pray for that courage, courage to proclaim Your word, to proclaim Your gospel, to proclaim Your truth everywhere we go for those who need to hear it. Stir up, O Lord, that spirit of fortitude in us to do that.

## **IMAGE**

I think I must just have a vivid imagination but I saw a little picture in my mind of God the Father, and He was dressed in white robes, with white sleeves. And He was bending around His creation that He loves so much and He bent down to kiss it but it burnt His lips, as if there was so much sin in the world that it was painful to Him. And then I saw us in my mind walking in here and we had dirt just on the outside of us, and God the Father was leaning over and His tears were crying on us and the dirt was just falling off of us. But they were tears of joy. He was so grateful to us that we allow Him to love us.

## **PRAYER**

Lord, Your heart calls us, Father, Your heart calls us. You know that parable of the prodigal son? That father ran to embrace his son. And Father, You come and You run to embrace us, each and every one of us, in the situation that we find ourselves, Lord. Thank You, Father, thank You for Your love, and thank You that we are privileged to be called Your sons and Your daughters.

## **SCRIPTURE**

We sang the song about the dry and thirsty land and, boy, is that appropriate these days. In **John 4:13-14**, Jesus tells the woman at the well... He's talking about the water in the well and He says: *Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I give him will never be thirsty. No, the water I give shall become a fountain within him, leaping up to provide eternal life.*

## **PRAYER**

Yes, Lord, the water of Your Holy Spirit, flowing through us, bringing Your love, Your truth to this world. O Lord, let us always be channels of that living water. Let us never stop the flow. Thank You.

## **IMAGE**

I had this image in which we all participated but it was like your image of God, the Father. He was in His white robes but He was like on a step down from His throne and we would go up to Him, one by one, and it was just us and Him, and Jesus was standing on His right side. And we would kneel down in front of God, and He would say to each one of us individually, like for me it was, "Denise, my daughter, I love you." And He would put a garland of flowers, like the Hawaiian lei, on us and He would say, "Here's my garland of grace" from that one song that we sang. And then Jesus would reach out His hand and He would help us stand up, and He did that for each one of us. And that garland of grace, I was thinking, you know, that Hawaiian lei, those fresh flowers, not the little plastic cheesy things, but the real Hawaiian lei, to keep those fresh and bright and new, you put them in the refrigerator. But with God's garland of grace, you

don't have to do that. Don't take it off to keep it pretty, you know, to save it for special occasions. Don't take it off. It stays fresh; it stays alive all the time.

### **PRAYER**

Yes, Lord, let us do that. Let it be with us all the time.

### **SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION**

When Doug was reading that last scripture about the water in the well and how when we're thirsty, we come and drink, it reminded me of the passage in **John 7:37-38** when Jesus goes to the festival of tabernacles and there's all this division about who Jesus is. Is He the Son of God? Is He not? *And on the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice, "Let any one who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow."* And sometimes those rivers can get a little muddled, a little dirty, and sometimes we need help clearing out our own river in our heart so that God's grace can flow into us. But you don't have to do it by yourself. You don't have to do it by yourself. You have the community of Christ around you and that's as simple as just reaching out a hand and saying, "Hey, I'm here. Help me sort through this. I'll help you sort through yours."

### **SHARING / SENSE**

When Denise was talking about the garland, I kept thinking about a lei, like a Hawaiian lei, and how it's the greatest gift of love to create first, to choose the blossoms, to tie them together and to sew them together, and then to present that as a gift over the neck of someone on a special occasion. Sometimes it's to say hello, "I love you", sometimes it's to celebrate a graduation or a special day. But it's that giving of this beauty and surrounding the person in it as a mark of love. I just feel like God is doing that for us sometimes, where He just wants to lay His lei of grace around our necks and say, "Hello, welcome, love you, congratulations. You're here, receive my gift." And let us smell the flowers as they continue to bloom around us. That's one of His languages of love.