

## INSPIRED WORD

August 7, 2019

### IMAGE / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER / PROPHECY

I was praying Sunday afternoon in my office and the Lord gave me an inner vision and it was so, so beautiful. And He said, "Write it down." So I did. It's for our group. I saw a beautiful huge white star suspended above the earth. It reminded me of the star of Bethlehem, the star that was present when Christ was born, although much, much larger. It was of a white, white color, such as sand you might see on some of our pristine beaches. It was shimmering and so beautiful to behold and it filled me with such joy. Then this beautiful star burst into hundreds, thousands, millions, billions, trillions, of tiny, little stars which fell from the sky upon all the inhabitants of the earth. And that is in **Revelation 22:16** where it says, "*I am the root and stock of David, the bright morning star.*" And then He gave me a little prayer: "O come little star, the love of God. Fill us with Your love, Your peace and Your joy. Counsel us, guide us, heal us, strengthen us. Always be our source of comfort and inspiration." And then in **Revelation 22:17** it says: *The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."* The bright morning star is with you now. Soon you will see the fulfillment of the very first prophecies given in your meetings so many years ago. (I think that must have been about 30 years ago.) I am the God who keeps his promises and your persistence and perseverance and your faith in my words will soon be rewarded. And my people will rejoice. Love, God.

### SHARING / SCRIPTURE

So about a month ago I talked with Deacon Chuck about just some things that were stirring in my heart and some of the things that God had really been speaking to me about and it kept on coming very... the things that were really on my heart were things that were on a similar vein. And it kept on coming and coming and coming. And the more and more that I prayed about some of these things, I just really felt that they weren't just for me but maybe for our community so I went to Deacon Chuck and I said I'm not sure but here's what I got. And he and I talked about it and he gave me his permission to share. So anyways, just a long story short, I have really been in this place of the Lord really calling and drawing me into a deeper understanding of not only who I am but who He created me to be. And number one, identity is always in Him. And number two, our call is to reach out – up and out. Look up to Jesus; reach out to others. And so that whole process, when you make room for the Lord, that means you've got to cultivate, that means you've got to make room, that means that things you hold on to as important slip off as not being so important when the Lord starts to show you, "Hey, I want to deal with you on this. Or I want to take you deeper in this area of your life. But I can't do it until you let go of (fill in the blank)." And this whole season that we as a prayer group have been in, that we've crossed the Jordan, there's no going back, right? And we're excited about that. But

we can't expect things on this side of the Jordan to look the same as they were on the other side because then we're just going back to Egypt – and Egypt is no fun. And so that means that we have to allow that space within our hearts to be cultivated to that newness. What is God doing? How are we being transformed from glory to glory? And I know for me that really looks like deepening my surrender, like saying, "Okay, God, I don't get it. I don't understand but I lay it at Your feet. I'm not sure why this is happening but I lay it at Your feet." And in that process of surrendering I praise Him for the work He will do, and we can't be afraid of that because in the new season there's going to be rain. There's going to probably be some mud. If you pray for rain, you might get some mud. And sometimes we go, "Oh, my gosh. Are you kidding me? Mud? Lord, I came to the other side of the Jordan and there's mud. There's mud over here, too. I thought we left the mud behind." But do not be afraid. Don't be afraid of what God is calling you out of because we've been called out of the darkness and into His marvelous light. And there's a scripture that I really have been pouring over and it's **2 Peter 1:3-8**: His divine power... that's the power of the Holy Spirit that we received at baptism that has been stirred up on the inside of us that we now have the privilege of living out. *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life, through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us these very great and precious promises so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.* (Our salvation.) *For this very reason make every effort to add to your faith goodness, and to goodness knowledge, and to knowledge self-control, and to self-control perseverance, and to perseverance godliness, and to godliness mutual affection, and to mutual affection love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* And I love the stepping stairs of how you start out with one step, then you go to another step, then you go to another step. But we can't be afraid of what those steps look like in our lives. We can't be afraid of what the rain may be bringing us on that next step. We can't be afraid of that cultivation of the seed of the word being sown into our hearts so it produces a harvest of righteous. And that's just really been something I've been walking on and walking through and really felt it was for us here as well.

### **INSPIRED TEACHING / EXHORTATION**

I was going to share this later but I guess we're doing sharings right now. I wrote this down because I didn't want to forget anything. Last week I shared the image of the Lord placing a garland of grace, a phrase from a song, on each one of us. But when I left here and went to adoration I found myself humming a different phrase from a song, "put on the garment of praise". And in adoration the Lord took me to a section of Malachi where, through the prophet, God is admonishing the priests for offering up blemished sacrifices, for example the animals were blind or lame. They were not perfect. And to relate that to us today, we say we offer up the sacrifice of praise. Sacrifice means surrendering a possession that is precious, valuable or important to us. So in a very real practical sense, we're sacrificing our time to come here and

give God praise. The question to ask ourselves then about our time here is whether our sacrifice of praise is the very best we have to offer or is it blemished by perhaps having a heavy heart or a burden. And that's how the garment of praise relates to this scripture verse. This phrase comes from Isaiah 61 where we're told to put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Notice that it doesn't say **a** garment of praise but **the** garment of praise. That's because it's not just any old garment, any old thing, but it is the **only** thing, the only one. It is only the garment of praise that can cover our inner spirit. Garments or clothing have essentially three purposes: (1) to cover ourselves, (2) to denote a position or office that a person holds, and (3) to show an important event. We are a holy priesthood as it says in 1 Peter 2:5. So we need to put on our spiritual garment to signify our position, to mark this as a special event since we are, after all, coming into the presence of the Lord, and to cover up our inner spirit which may be weary or distracted. We need to have on our garment of praise so that our sacrifice of praise is not blemished or unsatisfactory to the Lord. This is not about sitting and praying and asking God for it. He puts the garland of grace on us but the garment of praise we put on ourselves. It's already been provided to us by the blood of Jesus and we just have to take it and put it on, just like in Ephesians when it says to put on the armor of God. And what's extraordinary about this is that we don't have to get rid of the heaviness or troubles first to put it on. Other examples have it the other way around, like you can't put new wine into old wineskins. Or like the reading from Colossians 3 this past Sunday at mass where it says to put off the old nature and then put on the new. But with the garment of praise, we can put it on over the old because it may be that we can't be rid of the spirit of despair or that burden without time, outside intervention or whatever else, but at least for the time we're here, for the time we're offering praise, we can feel hope and the peace of Christ in order to praise Him to the best of our ability, just like in the scripture from Sirach that I read to you a couple of weeks ago where it says that we can never praise God enough for all He's done for us. We should praise Him with all we've got and we should never get tired or cease from doing so. Last week when sharing about the charismatic conference the word "power" was mentioned and the question posed: Do we truly believe we have the power to tell someone to get up and walk, to heal someone? Even though that gift of miracle healing is given to a select few, we all have the power to heal. There is power in prayer and there is power in praise. In both, we are acknowledging that we do have power and strength from God and both are healing. Perhaps it may be appropriate to offer prayer teams at the beginning of these gatherings so that with the power of prayer people are more able to put the garment of praise on over their burden in order to have a more powerful, more perfect sacrifice of praise. Another idea is that before we start the main section of praise, we have a moment of silence or something where we consciously put on our inner garment of praise. It may be beneficial or even fun to imaginatively design what our garment would look like. And then the aim is to never take this spiritual garment off. When we leave, do we immediately take it off and put on our comfy clothes? A priest takes off his vestments before he leaves but he still has the collar to remind him of his mission. And I had this thought that if husbands and wives always picture

themselves and each other dressed in their wedding clothes, would that be the reminder of the emotions and love of that day that could assist them through the years? We should figuratively be wearing our garment of praise all the time, not just here. And none of what I just said is new to us but God definitely put it together for me and wanted me to share it. So we need to put on our garment of praise in order to have a sacrifice of praise.

## SCRIPTURE

**Proverbs 1:23:** *Give heed to my reproof. Behold, I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you.* I just played the fool because I see me taking the reproof of the Lord but there's a choice between taking it and refusing it. And I give God thanks because when He says to take it, He will reveal His thoughts to you.

## SCRIPTURE

Two pieces from **Psalm 139** in light of the words spoken earlier this evening: *Lord, you have probed me and known me! You know when I sit and when I stand. You understand my thoughts from afar. My journeys and my rests you scrutinize. With all my ways you are familiar. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know the whole of it. Behind me and before, you hem me in and rest your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain (vs. 1-6).* And later on in the Psalm it says: *Truly you have formed my inner most being. You knit me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works. My soul also you knew full well. Nor was my frame unknown to you. When I was made in secret, when I was fashioned from the depths of the earth, your eyes kept seeing me. Your eyes have seen my actions (vs. 13-16).*

## SCRIPTURE / SENSE

From **Matthew 13:3-8:** *A sower went out to sow some seed and as he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches where the rock was and they found little soil and they sprang up but once, but because there was no depth of earth, as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and not having any roots they withered away. Others fell among thorns and the thorns grew up and choked them. Yet others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundred fold, some sixty, some thirty.* And as this parable was brought to mind for me, I just kept feeling like the Lord was saying, "You're all of it; all of the above. Sometimes I call you to be the sower, to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to throw the seed out to invite people in, to call, to encourage. Sometimes you're the seed and you get thrown out into situations that may be uncomfortable or may be joyful. But you're asked to just be my presence and let people respond as they will. Sometimes you're the soil, and you may be rocky or thorny or you may be good soil for other people." And finally, sometimes we're the harvest. And the Lord has done an amazing thing in our lives through the part that others have planted and the Lord has sown and others have encouraged and we yield

to that and we grow to be that harvest, each to its own potential. God doesn't get mad at someone who's a thirty fold yield if that's the way they were designed, and someone else is a hundred fold. He just calls you to be who you are and to respond with all your heart to his invitation. And when you do, He's pleased.

## SCRIPTURE

In light of what's been going on in the world here lately, these shootings and evilness and the men who have somehow gotten away from God, this came to mind to me. This is **Ephesians 2:11-18:** *Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called the uncircumcision by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by human hands, were at that time without Christ, alienated from the community Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, he who made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of envy through his flesh, abolishing the law with his commandments and legal claims that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God in one body through the cross, putting an end to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access to one Spirit to the Father.*

## SCRIPTURE

And I can confirm Eleanor's reading. The one that came to me was **Psalm 115:16-18:** *The heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth is given to us. The dead do not praise the Lord, all those gone down into silence. It is we who bless the Lord, both now and forever. Alleluia!*

## IMAGE / SCRIPTURE

As I was meditating on the words from the songs referencing the Holy Spirit, I saw the image of that column of fire that was following the Israeli people as they were crossing the desert. And of course we know that the Egyptians were chasing after them and Pharaoh was determined to catch God's people and destroy them but God protected them and of course we know that He spread forth His hands and the sea opened up and they crossed over to safety (**Exodus 14**). So even with the turmoil and everything, all the things that we see, like Eleanor referenced the shootings, we need to be aware that we too have that pillar of fire and the Lord is protecting us and the Lord is leading us.

## MESSAGE IN TONGUES

## INTERPRETATION

I speak to your hearts tonight. It is I, the Lord, who has formed you and made you and I speak to your hearts tonight. To each heart that has come into this place to praise me, I say know my

love for you. Know my love for you, whether your heart has grown cold, whether your heart is burdened, whether your heart has turned away and wants to turn back. I speak to your heart and I say that I am the one who made you. I am the one who formed you. I am the one who loves you. And into your heart this night at this time I place my unfailing love. I place that love into your heart that it may burn for me, and as it burns for me, you may shine in this world as those who know my love and share my love because you know that I have formed you, I have made you, and I love you.