

INSPIRED WORD

September 2, 2020

PRAYER

Your presence, O Lord, I seek. Show me, O Lord, Your way and lead me on the level path. Wait for the Lord with courage. Be stout-hearted and wait for the Lord. O Lord, during this time, this special time You have set aside, this time when we are encouraged to stay at home, to be still, to wait for You, Lord, help us to be thankful. Help us to listen for Your voice. Help us to listen for Your guidance. Help us to find the blessing in this time that You have given to us, that we might share Your voice with others, that we might be a comfort and encouragement and hope and rebirth. And to You, Jesus, we give You the glory as we wait for the fulfillment of Your promise in our hearts, in our lives and in our world.

SCRIPTURE

From one of the songs, the phrase that has stayed with me from when we first sang it was "We wait upon the Lord." And **Psalm 40:1-3** says: *I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry. He drew me out of the depth of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp. He set my feet upon a crag; he made firm my steps. And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look on in awe and trust in the Lord.*

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

This scripture confirms Doug's word because it talks about the now and the not yet and what's to come. From **Isaiah 49:1-6**: *Coasts and islands, listen to me. Pay attention, distant peoples. Yahweh called me while I was in the womb, before my birth he pronounced my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword. He hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me a sharpened arrow and hid me in his quiver. He said to me, "Israel, you are my servant through whom I will manifest my glory." (That's the part about the plan in advance.) I said, "My toil has been futile. I've exhausted myself for nothing, to no purpose." (And that's kind of our present reality sometimes.) Yet all the while my cause is with Yahweh and my reward was with God. And now Yahweh has spoken to me and formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him and to reunite Israel to him. He said, "It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the survivors of Jacob and bring back the tribes of Israel. I shall make you a light to the nations so that my salvation shall reach the remotest parts of the earth. That's the part yet to come. If we hide ourselves as an arrow in His quiver and know our identity, and wait on the Lord and then do the work for His glory, He'll make the dream bigger than we can even imagine, because Isaiah thought he was just preaching to his own people, and God said, "No. I shall make you a light to the nations so that my salvation shall reach to the remotest parts of the earth." Do we dare dream big enough for our big God?*

IMAGE / SENSE

The Lord has been bringing to my mind an image and I'm not even quite sure what it means, but I'm remembering... and I know that probably a lot of you have done this or have done this children or grandchildren, but you're on a bridge that goes over a stream. And you get a little stick, just a little stick that floats and you throw it in one side and you run to the other side to look because you know that it's going to float under that bridge and be floating down that stream again. And it's like okay, Lord, I see the image and it's a really joyful image. And I just have the sense that the Lord is saying to us like He said in these scriptures: "I have said to you to be like little children. Be filled with my joy at the unexpected. Know that I am with you, that whatever you throw into the stream of my love will come back out on the other side. Be excited about that; be joyful and let others know that I am faithful, that I am with you always."

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

I believe that there's one person out there that's really struggling with back and forth, back and forth, back and forth about sharing what the Lord is giving. If that's you, I just ask that you speak it out right now before we continue with praise.

CONFIRMATION / WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

I confirm that. There's a word out there still waiting. It's a very strong word that's waiting to be spoken.

EXHORTATION

I think it's so beautiful that this next song was picked. It's the Canticle of Mary, the song of Mary from Magnificat, because it really fits into what we're praying tonight. And that's the willingness to say "yes" to what we don't know is possible, for a dream that is bigger than we can imagine. Her "yes" made Jesus' entry into the world a smooth channel. And she's a model for us in that "yes" when we don't always know the details. We just know He's asking.

IMAGE

I have this image of a hand trying to turn a faucet on. It tries and tries and tries and people are just waiting to have a drink of water, but water won't flow. Finally, this person has the courage and the strength to push even harder and the faucet turns on. Many people are now able to partake of the water that now flows through this faucet. And I think that image for us with the word that is waiting to be spoken, if it is not spoken then those who are waiting to hear it won't hear it. But once the first word is spoken it will flow, the word of God, the grace of God will flow more freely and will be heard by so many.

CONFIRMATION / IMAGE

I had the image of water flowing as well. And it talked about "Let the joy of the Lord bubble up and flow out of your abundance to other people."

CONFIRMATION / IMAGE

I just had a confirming image and it's kind of silly but it's like what Mel and Betsy were saying. But it was a bottle of Ranch dressing and you're shaking it and trying to squeeze out the dressing and it's not coming. You want it to come but it won't come. And you take off the lid and you look down and realize that the little piece of paper is still on there under the cap. You gotta rip the band aid off and when you put the cap back on, the dressing flows right out. So maybe that piece of paper on there is a hurt or a fear of, you know, something that you've been protected from, and it's a good protection but sometimes you have to just rip the bandage off, rip off that piece of paper so that God's goodness can flow out to the world.

SCRIPTURE

Something that keeps reoccurring to me and I'm not sure where it fits but Jesus told us to be as children and He said, "*Let the children come to me*" (**Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:14, Luke 18:16**).