

INSPIRED WORD
September 12, 2018

SHARING / SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

So tonight there's a little bit of a theme. As I was praying about the night, the scripture or phrase that came to mind was, "Lord, You have the victory in our time of trial" (**1 Corinthians 15:57**). And there are a lot of things that are trials this week in the bigger church body, the 911 remembrances that are difficult for so many, and just in life we have trials. But the Lord has the victory in those and so we're here tonight to focus on the victory, give our hearts to God, and ask for Him to be victorious in our lives as well. And to really trust that He's a big enough God that He can do that because He is outside of that box. There is no box big enough to contain God. I guess I just want to challenge us as we pray tonight to let God be God, and let Him be big enough to be believed. Amen.

PRAYER

Glory to You, Jesus. Thank You for being here with us tonight. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us, Lord, so that we might just praise You and the Father and the Spirit right from the depths of our hearts, just that freedom that comes from You. We want that; glory to You.

PRAYER

Your kingdom come, Lord Jesus, to this place tonight. Let it happen, O Lord, let Your Holy Spirit flow from our hearts tonight. Let us not be afraid to make a joyful noise unto You. So Lord, we just pray for that flow of Your Holy Spirit tonight, and just take us up, Lord. Take us up and along in that river of Your grace. Glory to You, Jesus.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Psalm 84:1-2, 10-11: *How lovely is your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart, my flesh cry out for the living God. For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory. No good thing will he withhold from those who walk uprightly. Father, we just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You are the King of kings, yes You are Lord, righteous in all Your ways. We do praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name. O King of kings! Righteous is the Lamb, righteous in all Your ways, for You alone are worthy, O worthy is the Lamb.*

SHARING

That song is amazing. Music is so powerful and I've been singing my whole life in various... not usually in anything special but that song moved me all over the floor and usually I'm not the kind of guy who does that kind of stuff. And I didn't think about it or contemplate whether I should do it, it just kind of happened. So that's really cool. And the other thing I wanted to say is... "old church choir". I've sung in a lot of choirs and I've sang a lot of traditional kind of music usually. Once in a while you sing a major chord which are the nice round ones; it doesn't make anybody nervous. If you get it just right, just perfectly once in a while, it's the most incredible thing. The harmonics to it are just amazing. And when that happens, you know it's not just the voices there; you know that God had something to do with that, to make that happen. Music is just so powerful.

SHARING

And the really cool thing is that we learn that in music and learn to hear that in music, but we also get to hear that in community. When there's a group that has come together that is truly of one heart and one mind of loving God, that same chord happens, that same music happens. And that song goes out in a powerful way of evangelization that draws people in. So that is also a mission and a goal. Unity does not mean everybody is exactly the same but it's everybody doing their perfect part together, the way they've been given, to make the perfect chord that sings to the Lord.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Lord, that's the promise of **Revelation (21:4)** when we're brought before You with all the angels and saints and You wipe every tear from our eyes. You let us see You face to face. We cry holy, Lord, holy are You! Mighty in splendor are You, Lord, holy are You. O Jesus, mighty are You, glory to You, glory to You, God. No more pain, no more death, no more sickness, Lord, when we're with You there in that glorious kingdom. Thy kingdom come, Lord; let Your kingdom come tonight in a special way here. Come, and where Your kingdom is, Lord, there is Your love and Your power. So we pray for the presence of Your kingdom here, Lord, Your love and Your power and Your manifest presence. We love You; glory to You.

IMAGE / PROPHECY

We are invited to magnify the Lord tonight. Jimmy very early in his inspired song talked about magnifying the Lord, and I was thinking about that. First off, I was thinking of a magnifying glass or microscope that magnifies things we can't even see without their help. Many things on this earth we can't see without magnifying it. And then in the last song, it said, "Blessed are the eyes that see," and the Lord said, "Yes, some don't see me. How do you magnify me so that they might see me?" We are called tonight to magnify the Lord.

SCRIPTURE

The thought I'd like to share is the scripture from **Isaiah 40:28-29**, *"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint. If I can take a little encouragement from the Lord, so can the rest of you. This is the day, you know, seize it. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and to him who has no might he increases strength (v. 29).* The Lord will do it. That's a promise, and a promise He makes is as good as gold. *The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see together for the mouth of the Lord has spoken (v. 5).* The Lord is the one who is going to do it.

SHARING

There was a line in that last song that I just love. It's when we are there and we see, we will applaud the Lord because it is His magnificent plan being worked out in all of us, and we finally understand and finally see. We'll just simply applaud.

SENSE / PROPHECY

We heard in our music and our song prayers tonight many promises from the Lord that He does indeed have the final and last word. When we were singing that last song asking Him to have mercy, He said, "It's not just the last word I have. I have the word every day for your life." And He kind of showed me to ask right now to just think about the hardest thing you're going through right now today and maybe tomorrow, whether it's illness or a decision, whatever it is, just to take a minute and bring that to mind. And then **Psalms 23:1-6** that we all know, He just wants us to really hear it. And so I'm going to read it and I want you to think of Him speaking to you about the situation He brought to mind and saying, "You have sung my forever word but this is my today word." *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right path for his name sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; and anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for my whole life long.* And that is a promise, His today word for whatever situation you are facing today.

WORD OF WISDOM

Jesus Christ's name is our power.

SHARING

This is a short paragraph from C.S. Lewis that I sort of think confirms all the things of tonight. "God will invade. But I wonder whether people who ask God to interfere openly and directly in our world quite realize what it would be like when he does. When that happens, it is the end of

the world. When the Author walks on the stage, the play is over. God is going to invade all right. But what is the good of saying you're on his side then when you see the whole natural universe melting away like a dream and something else, something that never entered your head to conceive, comes crashing in, something that's so beautiful to some and so terrible to others that none of us will have any choice left. For this time it will be God without disguise, something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side. There'll be no use saying you chose to lie down when it has become impossible to stand up. That will not be the time for choosing. It will be the time when you discover which side you really have chosen, whether we've realized it before or not. Now, today, this moment, is our chance to choose God's side. God is holding back to give us that chance. It will not last forever. We must take it or leave it." The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want. But do we walk with Him to green pastures? Do we let Him guide us to still waters? Choose today; choose the Lord.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I just want to confirm that. All evening long I've had the verse from **Isaiah 66:1**: "*Heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool; where is the house which you would build for me, and where is the place of my rest?*" And if we choose to let it be His resting place, His habitation, it can be within our hearts.

SENSE / EXHORTATION / PRAYER

I'm sure I'm not telling anybody what they can't tell but there's a heavy presence of the Lord here. There's an intense presence of God in this house right now. He wants to do something; I'm not sure what it is but there's an intense presence of God. Excuse me if I'm stepping out of order here but if you have something in your life that you want Him to do, this would be the moment. This is your time. I really think God wants to do something; I believe that God wants to touch people in a special way. And I believe that if you surrender the thing to Him right now, He will deal with it according to His promise, according to His manner, because like Cici said, He is stepping on the stage right here, right now in His way. I just love it when He does something like this because He is right here, right now, and all we have to do is just surrender ourselves to Him and He will deal with it; He will deal with us. And I just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name, Lord, for You alone are worthy, worthy, worthy. Worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb alone is worthy, worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb.

EXHORTATION

Let us just open our hearts wide to the Spirit of God whose anointing is with us now.

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

When I opened up to page 62, **Psalms 96:1, 6** reads, *O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth! In his presence are majesty and splendor. Strength and honor in his holy*

place. I love it, you know, when God seems so close and personal, and you open up something and words really speak out. I come here and yes, this place is strength and you could call it honor. By the way, I don't talk. When I was in elementary school, I had a speech impediment that was really bad, and we had to bring in cookies to show the kids and I had all these great pictures of cookies and I'm showing them and all the kids are laughing. I don't understand. What's with everybody thinking the cookies are so funny? So I'm walking home and some kid approaches me and says, "Say cookies." And I said "cookies" but I mispronounced it. And so after that I developed a fear of speaking in public and I just didn't do it. If I had to speak in high school, I was sick. I always came up with an excuse. And in college I was sick. I got away with it a lot too. So that I can speak, it's kind of an honor. It's forgiveness; I've forgiven the people who laughed at me when I was younger, and it's strength of the Holy Spirit. I know I couldn't do this otherwise. I know sometimes maybe if I do make it look easy, it's not really easy for me because a lot of strength... I really feel the presence of the Holy Spirit when I do because I can't do it myself. I've grown a lot in being able to speak publicly. And I thank God for that and the Holy Spirit for it.

PRAYER

Lord, we're here to open our hearts to You. See our hearts, Lord.

EXHORTATION / IMAGE

Just as the Lord healed Annie of her speech impediment to allow her to proclaim His word, we just bring for Him anything that He needs to heal in our own hearts tonight, that thing that you thought He can't fix, we bring it to the altar right now and into His presence. We choose as Jimmie said. The image to me is of a steam room where you can see the mist in the air. The Holy Spirit mist is in the room. Relax into it, come into it and heal.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

And in your heart, let's just ask Him, Lord, come Holy Spirit, come Lord, the cloud of Your glory, come have Your way here, come.

SHARING / WORDS OF WISDOM

Just right now what has gone through my mind has been all the ways I am such a spiritual toddler. I'm not this way, I'm not that way; I'm not grounded. There's nothing I can point to that says I've accomplished anything spiritually. And in that time all Christ does is come to us and reaches out His hand to us. He doesn't see all the things we aren't. He doesn't focus on those things. What He sees is who He wants to be through us. All He wants is to pour out His love.

CONFIRMATION / SHARING

I have to confirm that. A lot of you know that I am a Eucharistic minister. I take Holy Communion to our homebound parishioners. In June, I went to see one of our parishioners. I

was seeing him for about eight months. His name was Al. I went over to his house on Sunday to give him Communion and his wife said, "I just wanted to let you know the doctors give him three to four weeks." So I went downstairs to give him Communion, and he was in his bed. They made the basement into a bedroom. So he's in his bed, his little tee shirt was up and all you could see was skin and bones. He had lost 30 pounds in the last month. He just lay there and so I started the Holy Communion ritual. Anyway, he was just sitting there, laying there listening to me. And when I got to the part where I hold up the Eucharist and say, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world," he actually got up on his elbow and looked at me eye-to-eye, opened his mouth and accepted Jesus. This man was on his death bed, okay, he opened his mouth to accept Jesus. At that time when I looked into his eyes I saw Jesus and these words came to me... Jesus said to me... it wasn't the Holy Spirit, this was Jesus. "See how he honors me in the deepest, darkest storm of his life. He opened his mouth to accept my body." He honored Jesus. And then I was driving home and these words came to me in a song but I'm not going to sing it. The title is Honor Me. "Honor me, I will never, ever leave you. Honor me, I am in you, I am with you. Honor me, and I will show you my mercy. Take my hand, I will lead you to our Father. Honor me, I am alive. I live in you. Have an open mind and heart and I will use you. Be my hands and feet and let me shine in you. Let me use your mouth to share my words. Your Savior, Jesus." So even in the deepest, darkest storms, remember to honor Him. He's never going to leave you; He's always there for you. Lately, in the past weeks, you know, with what's been happening in the news with the church, everybody says, "How can you admit that you're Catholic?" Hey, I am Catholic and only one word matters: Jesus. And that shuts them up and I keep coming to mass and I'm Catholic and thank You, Lord. And anyways, this is a poem and a lot of people are probably saying "Why did you write this in June?" Anyway, he passed the next Sunday. I knew when I saw Jesus in his eyes that this was the last time I was going to see Al alive because if he had not passed, then Jesus in his eyes would not have had such significance. I knew, and I didn't tell his wife. So these handouts have been in my car since June and I'm going to tell you why they've been in my car. The closer I get to God, the closer I get to Jesus, the more the dark spirit wants me. He's pulling at me. So they've been out in my car since June and I think I told somebody about this poem and she said, "Read it." So I read it tonight. Anyway, Jesus is alive, guys, He lives in you. Take His love to people. When I go to the hospital and pass out Communion, they are aching for Him. They just want to hear His word, His love, so share it with everybody. Admit that you're Catholic because it's a good thing. Thank you.

PRAYER

When the Lord fill us up, He asks that that living water flow through us. O Lord, let Your living water flow through us, Lord, to minister, to minister in this place, Lord.

EXHORTATION

As we go from this place, you're going to have opportunities this week to meet others and pray for them in Jesus' name.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

Just real quickly I want to confirm what Chuck said. This is from the end of the **Gospel of Mark 16:15, 17-20**; it's after Jesus rose from the dead and He appeared to His disciples and He said, *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."* So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

EXHORTATION

Amen to that.

SHARING

The song says "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, I want to see you." And we are the body of Christ, and we see Him in those around us.