

**INSPIRED WORD**  
**December 12, 2018**

Video about Advent – small group discussion

**PRAYER / EXHORTATION**

Lord, we want to run into Your arms tonight. We want to run into your arms with joy tonight. Thank You, Lord. One of the questions we were asked tonight is how we were preparing for this season of Advent. And one of the ways we're doing that is right here, right now. We've come into the presence of our God, and we want to praise Him. We want to praise Him with all our heart. We're in the time of joyful anticipation, joyful waiting, joyful expectation, and while we're living those in our heart, we want to praise and honor God.

**PRAYER**

Oh yes, Lord, we've come to give You thanks for all You've done for each and every one of us, Lord. We thank You and we praise You. We thank You, Lord, for the blessings that we know; we thank You, Lord, for the blessings that we don't know. But we thank You, Lord, we thank You for being in every part of our life. We thank You, Lord, for the joy that You want us to have. We thank You, Lord, for the love You wrap us in. And we thank You, Lord, for Your very presence here tonight.

**SCRIPTURE / PRAYER**

This isn't exactly an Advent season kind of thing but this song makes me think of it. It's **John 1:1, 14**: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. We beheld his glory, as of the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.* The Word, the Word made truth and life. We praise You and give You all the honor and glory that's due to Your holy name, O Lord, for You alone are worthy. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb, worthy the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You alone are worthy, worthy of honor and worthy of glory and worthy of all praise. Praise be to Your name, praise You, O Lord, O holy risen Lamb.

**SCRIPTURE**

**Psalms 150:1-6**: *Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord in the sanctuary; praise him in the firmament, his strength! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him for his sovereign majesty! Praise him with the blast of the trumpet; praise him with lyre and harp! Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with clanging cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Alleluia!*

## PRAYER

Yes, Lord, let everything that has breath praise the Lord. That's us, Lord. That's why we're here, Lord, to praise You, to praise You.

## CONFIRMATION

This song is confirmation to that reading – “Praise is ever on our lips.”

## SHARING / SCRIPTURE / INSPIRED TEACHING

This doesn't have anything to do really with our theme tonight but that video is what prompted me to share it. It's about surrendering and I was going to wait until that kind of came up and it seemed like a theme for one of our sessions but the fact that in the video he was talking about passive waiting, this kind of addresses passive surrendering. Several Wednesdays ago when we were talking about surrendering, that was the theme, God just had me focus on the word surrender. And I thought a little about it here, but I had to go home because I don't have a phone where I can look up this stuff. But if you take a look at the word surrender, sur, the s-u-r, is actually a prefix and what that means is over and above or more or in addition to. So like, for example, surplus – you have some but a surplus means you have a whole lot more, an Abundance. Surround – add sur to round, and surround means totally encompassing, going all the way around. Surtax is another example. It's an additional tax, more of. So if you put s-u-r in front of a word, it means more of that. So surrender – sur is added on to render. And render means giving, giving over to. The bible verse I thought about was “*render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and render unto God what is God's* (**Matthew 22:21**). But you can actually break that word down even further because e-r is a suffix, so the initial core word is rend. And rend means to tear, to rip. And immediately what it brought to mind to me was the curtain in the temple, when it was rent when Christ died on the cross. And what that signified was that God became open and available to us, completely open and available, and Jesus opened that way to God. And so if you look at the word surrender... There's a bible verse in **Joel (2:12-13)**. It says: “*Yet even now,*” says the Lord, “*return to me with all your heart ... and rend your hearts and not your garments.*” So surrendering to God is not a passive sort of thing where we just say, “I surrender”, “I lay down”, “I give up”. I see it now as an active response of rendering, surrendering, tearing our hearts open for the Lord. And you know, we think about all the gifts that Christ, God, the Lord, the Holy Spirit gives to us, focused now at Christmas time, singing the praises of all His gifts, you know. I think the greatest gift we can give back to Him is for us to surrender our hearts, to go over and above, tearing our hearts open and giving God access to us.

## CONFIRMATION / IMAGE

I've gotta confirm that. One song we sang earlier about running into His arms, and what came to me was a powerful sign, and the Father's arms are opened wide for us, so we can surrender and run into our Daddy's arms.

## **SCRIPTURE**

How do you surrender to God when your heart is the obstacle? When fear and all that other stuff is your obstacle? This is what the Lord gave to me when I prayed for understanding. It's from **Psalm 62:1-8**, and this is the rendering, this is the confession. In God alone... *In God alone there is rest for my soul; from him comes my safety. He alone is my rock, my safety, my stronghold so that I stand unshaken. How much longer will you set on the victim altogether, content on murder like a rampart, already leaning over, a wall already damaged? Trickery is their only plan; deception is their only pleasure. With lies on their lips, they pronounce a blessing with a curse in their hearts. Rest in God alone, my soul; he is the source of my hope. He alone is my rock, my safety, my stronghold, so that I stand unwavering. In God is my safety and my glory, the rock of my strength; in God is my refuge. Trust in him, you people, at all times; pour out your hearts to him; God is our refuge.*

## **PRAYER / EXHORTATION**

Lord, we just bring that offering to You right now, right here. We bring our barriers; we bring our blessings; we bring ourselves; we bring an offering to you of praise and glory and love. We bring an offering of brokenness and healing. We bring an offering of sin, where we've failed and stumbled, and we bring an offering of surrender, which says, "I'm sorry. Help me try again, help me do better. May Your Holy Spirit rise up within me, fill me again. Help me to come into Your presence, to praise the Holy One of heaven." Lord, we bring an offering, right here, right now. We give it to You all, Lord, we give You ourselves. You are our rock and our refuge, our Father God. We come before You, we come into Your arms. Thank You, God.

## **CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE**

In confirmation of CeCe's prayer and what Denise spoke, I was given **Psalm 51** very early in this praise and worship and I didn't quite understand it at that time but it says, in part (**vs. 7-12**): *Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you've crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.* And a little bit further in **51:15-17**: *O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice or I would bring it. You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

## **PRAYER**

Yes, Lord, create a clean heart within us, Lord. Renew Your Spirit within us, Lord. We come before You, Lord, in our brokenness, in our fear, in our distractions, in our distress, in our illness, and in our health, Lord. We do come to You, and with our arms opened wide, we say, “Lord, create in us a clean heart and renew Your Spirit within us, Lord. Give us back the joy of our salvation. Give us back the joy of what You want us to have, Lord, so that we can give You all the praise, all the honor, and all the glory.”

## **EXHORTATION / PRAYER**

As we wait patiently for the Lord’s birth, as we wait expectantly, as we wait joyfully, He calls us to surrender, just to surrender, to surrender in a joyful way into His loving arms. He wants us to run to Him and say, “Lord Jesus, I surrender everything that’s a barrier in my life to You. I surrender it all to You, Lord. I give it to You. Yes, Lord, I wait patiently and expectantly but joyfully, joyfully, Lord.” And we thank You for Your birth. We thank You for Your call to us. We thank You for the clean heart that You will create in us. We thank You for the renewed Spirit within us, Lord. And we praise You. In Your holy name we pray. Amen. And Lord, we do ask for Your blessing as we got out into this world. We ask for Your blessing. We ask for You to give us a gift of more trust and boldness, Lord, so that we can carry that joyful Spirit to those who need to see it and to hear it. Amen.