

INSPIRED WORD

April 26, 2017

PRAYER

We come before You with open hearts and open arms and open eyes to see what You would do, what You will do, as You teach us to know Your love even deeper and in a more powerful way. No limits, God, we put no limits on You tonight. You are awesome in power. You are the healer. And You are our God, who loves us and who has called us as His own. Amen.

EXHORTATION

What I'm going to ask you to do is to just take a moment, close your eyes and offer up anything that you came here with tonight. I came here with work stress, I came here with family stress, money stress, all these different stresses, addictions, pain, divorce, any of these family problems that everybody comes here with. I'm just going to ask you to take that for a second and just pray through that, release it. Try to let whatever you came in here with, just be at ease. Just take a minute.

(Introduction to continuation of Michelle Moran video from the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal)

SHARING

For those of you who were not here last week for the first part of this video, they were talking about three words Michelle received when putting together her address to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Those words were water, blood that flows from the side of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. And in the first part, Michelle poised many questions to us. She talked about how many people came into the renewal to begin with and then as the water got deeper, it was harder to swim and some turned back. And she also talked about how the water is flowing today. And then she talked about when they all were in the Olympic stadium with Pope Francis and they were waiting for a prophetic word as to where they would be going. And there were prophetic words but nothing that really stood out. And then she told how they were starting to go off stage in a little dance like this and all of the leaders found themselves, as they got to the end of the stage, at the foot of the cross of Jesus. And they knew then that that was the prophetic word, that anything that we do is to flow from the side of Jesus. He sent the Holy Spirit and so we're going to pick up there because she's going to talk about our call. And that's really important but just as a matter of context, she told us about a cross, the cross of the Renewal that was going to go up outside the Ark of the Dove. And I just want to show you that so that we have some context of what she was talking about. Over here, that is the Ark of the Dove where the college students were when the Holy Spirit came 50 years ago and just fell on them in a very, very dramatic way and brought the Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide.

That's the Ark where the students were. There's another little house called the Dove. Now she said when you first get up to it, they put a sign there and you'll see it. It says, "The Ark of the Dove, Home of Baptism in the Holy Spirit." Chuck and I were there a couple years ago so that's the picture. But then as you come up the driveway, that's where they put the cross of the Renewal and it's very large and it just epitomizes what she said about it coming from Jesus, from the side of Jesus. So I wanted you to see that cross they just put up. So now we will listen to the rest of Michelle's talk. Basically, she's going to tell us that the new Pentecost is for the new evangelization and we have to be prepared to move. And are we?

(Video)

EXHORTATION / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER / SHARING

So are you ready to have a praise gathering in Acacia Park, my friends? How about the Costco parking lot? Or other places? See, that call is to get out there, isn't it? It's wonderful to come together here. We come together here so that we can grow in the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit, so we can be open to them, so we can know how they operate. We can grow in love for people. But it's not to remain here, is it? Is it? No, it's not to remain here. It's to be taken outside. Just like the ladies praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the bar. I know a few bars. I don't frequent but I used to. But, yeah, go out there! We have a mission. And it's an exciting mission. But we have to be open to this Pentecostal fire, don't we? We have to be open to a new Pentecost. We have to believe in our hearts that the Spirit wants to act through us, wants to baptize us, wants us to pray for baptism in the Holy Spirit everywhere we go, and He's got a mission. And He wants us to say yes. If we don't say yes, He ain't gonna send us, guys. He's not going to do it. He's going to look for somebody else. And what a waste that would be. So, with that said, we're going to start praise and worship now. The Scripture says: *"Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you."* **(Matthew 7:7)** *"You who know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"* **(Matthew 7:11)** So now let's just ask with our hearts. Lord, send forth Your Holy Spirit upon us tonight. Send that Spirit upon us that we might be able to worship You with sincerity of heart, and freedom. Send that Spirit upon us that we might desire Your gifts, Your charisms for the benefit of others. And Lord, send that Spirit of courage upon us that we may step out and be vehicles of Your grace to one another, because if you get touched by God, brothers and sisters, by the Spirit of God, with a gift or charism, what does He want you to do with it? He wants you to use it, doesn't He? And if you don't use it, then somebody who needs it is not going to be touched. So I wouldn't wanna be talking to God and say, "You know, You touched me, Lord, a thousand times and I never yielded once to You." I mean, I don't want to say that to Him. So with that said, let's stand up and we'll get ready as a community to worship the Lord.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

If you have the gift of prayer tongues, use that with energy tonight. Just allow the will of the Lord through you, that we might be free and open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and open to worship. And if you don't, then just say the name of Jesus, the most powerful name in this world, just praise Him. Jesus, my Lord, alleluia. Jesus, glory to You. Let's me free, okay? Let's be free. Holy Spirit, we just ask You to just bubble up within us. Let that living water flow into our hearts, into this assembly tonight and do the work that You have called us here to do. Glory to You! Lord, I just want to thank You, thank You for bringing those five adults into the confirmation class and for creating a hunger in their hearts for You. They said that they felt like there was something missing in their heart and that's the full anointing of the Holy Spirit. So I thank You, Lord, for bringing them here and I just ask You to continue to bless them as we move toward Pentecost Sunday. Thank You, Lord. Thank You, thank You.

SHARING / CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

A couple of verses have been on my heart for the last week and have kind of been confirmed tonight. One of them is from **Jeremiah 29:11** and it simply says, *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope."* And then another one, **Acts 2:17**, that says, *"In the last days God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. And then Romans 8:39: Nothing can separate us from God's holy love. And that's basically what the song just says. Whenever we are burdened, take it to the Lord in prayer. For when we do that, we realize that we have His divine mercy, the power of the Creator of heaven and earth. In many verses it says His mercy endures forever. And in doing this, we know He wants the best for us, for our lives, and we do this in the name of Jesus.*

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

Psalms 150:1-6 says: *Praise the Lord in his sanctuary; praise him in his firmament of strength! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him for his awesome majesty! Praise him with the blast of the trumpet; praise him with lyre and harp! Praise him with timbrel and dancing; praise him with strings and pipes! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with clanging cymbals! Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord! Alleluia!* And if whoever wrote this had know about electricity, I'm going to go out on a limb here, he would have said praise Him with synthesizer, electric drums, bass guitar, whatever.

SCRIPTURE

From **1 Samuel 2:1-10**: *Hannah also prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy like the Lord, there is none besides thee; there is no rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a*

God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world. He will guard the feet of his faithful ones; but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might shall a man prevail. The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed.

INSPIRED TEACHING / EXHORTATION

We hear that the Lord is victor in the strong words of that scripture. We hear battle. Our culture tells us battle but that's not how the Lord battles, that's not how Jesus' battles. He battles with love. He overwhelms His enemies in love, an active, tangible, practical love. And He calls us to do the same as we follow our mighty warrior.

SCRIPTURE / SENSE

From today's Gospel reading, from **John 3:16**, it says: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.* And we're speaking of this tremendous love of God that was referred to a little earlier in Romans 8. And so what's His love like? **Romans 8:32** says: *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for all of us, will he not also give us everything else?* It goes on to say: *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Shall hardship or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels or rulers, nor things present or things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, not anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord (**Romans 8:35-39**).* In that song, these scripture verses came to mind. I think the Lord really wants us to take that into our hearts, that the light of the world, Jesus, stepped down into darkness as a gift of the Father so that we will know that nothing, no matter what we walk through, nothing can ever separate us from the love of God which is ours in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

This song sometimes focuses on the crown and the Christ of the crucifixion but this song is also about the Christ of the resurrection who we met at Easter, who held out His arms and His nail-printed hands and said, "How much do you love Me, Peter?" And Peter said, "With everything" (**referencing John 21:15-17**). With Peter, let's say, "We love You with everything."

PRAYER / EXHORTATION

Jesus revealed the love of the Father for us. He died on the cross for our salvation. He rose from the dead in victory, victorious. And tonight, You are here in a very special way. And Lord, You ask us to trust You. You ask us to follow You. You ask us to give You our lives, our hopes, our plans, yes, even our failures and shortcomings, our imperfections, those places we fall short. O Jesus, You call us to surrender to You as Lord, as Lord of all we are. And our hope is here tonight to do that, to say: Jesus, Jesus, tonight in this place I want to surrender anew to You. I want to recommit to You, surrender anew to You those places that perhaps I've fallen back. I want to come close. I want You to grab my hand. I want You to walk with me. I want You to put Your arm around my shoulder. I want to see Your face, Your face of love looking at me. O Jesus.

IMAGE

I saw water, beautiful water as on the first Pentecost, from the heart of Christ to our hearts and to the whole world.

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

We're praying for the Lord to send His Spirit upon us like a mighty wind. It says in John 7:37: *On the last day of the feast, Jesus stood up and explained, "Let anyone who thirsts, come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says, 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'"* I believe the challenge is still out there, the challenge that we heard tonight, the challenge that we heard last week. We heard about the mighty warrior, the Lord Jesus Christ, the mighty warrior dressed for battle. And He follows that up with the beautiful words of love from scripture to give us the assurance of His love. But He keeps calling us over and over and over to the same challenge as He did last week. Where are we in the river of living water? Are we still ankle deep? Or are we knee deep? Or are we waist deep? Or are we asking to have water over our heads and let the Spirit carry us? You know, if we're just in ankle deep, we're not really wet at all. Maybe our feet are a little bit wet but the rest of us is dry and we have control because we're trying to stand on firm ground. And if we're in water up to our knees, then we can feel the rush of the water but we still have somewhat control. But if we're in water up to our waist, then we have to trust a little bit. We become unsteady. We become unsure. We can't rely upon ourselves the way sometimes we want to. But the Lord says rivers of living water will flow through us. If we thirst, we come to Him. And that should give us the courage to get into this river of living water over our heads and let it carry us if we trust, if we accept His challenge to trust, if we accept His challenge to understand the words of love that He gives us. Then we need to get into the living water and let Him carry us where He wants us to be. We need to be ready. We need to be ready to step out and move. We need to trust that much. We need to stand firm on the belief that He loves us. We need to stand firm that nothing can shake that love. And we need to reach out and just grasp His hand and say: Lord, take me to where You want me to be for Your praise and Your honor and Your glory.

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

From the **first letter of John 4:7-13**: *Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; but if you love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given up his own Spirit. So how am I going to love today? How am I going to love tomorrow? How am I going to give the love of God to someone? How will I make a difference as God makes a difference? How will I love? How will you?*

IMAGE / SENSE / PROPHECY

I just had this experience with Jesus. He and I were standing on the rim of the Grand Canyon, and if you've been there, you know how vast it is. And it's pretty overwhelming. And He said, "You know, I know every square inch of the Grand Canyon." And I was like, wow, every square inch. So what does that mean? He said, "Tell them that they are so much more important to me than the Grand Canyon. If I know every square inch of the Grand Canyon, don't you think I know them, each one, personally, individually, everything about them. I love them, I know what they need, I know what they want, I know all their hopes and their dreams, their fears, their troubles. I know them personally and intimately."

SHARING / PRAYER

The Lord brought to mind a few minutes ago and I shared with Chuck and Barb that 31 years ago today, this prayer ministry was formed. April 26, 1986 is when the Lord brought this prayer meeting into existence. So what better song can you have about the Lord's unfailing love, that He's kept this community together for 31 years? And the question would be then is where were we 31 years ago? Many of us were young! So we do thank You, Lord, for Your unfailing love. We thank You, Lord, for forming this community. We thank You, Lord, for reminding us that it's You who is in control, that it's You who's in charge, You who grants us the ability to be here. So we thank You, Lord, for that unfailing love and we praise You, Lord. Amen.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

You know, I had an image during the prayer meeting that there may be somebody here who has a problem with their cheek or jaw or something like that. If that's you and you want prayer for that, just come see me afterwards.