

INSPIRED WORD

April 20, 2016

PRAYER

O Lord, the words of that song and the words of our prayer is that You set that fire in our hearts, afresh and anew, in a greater way here now in this place. O Jesus, light that fire in our hearts, light that fire in our hearts! Lord, we want that fire of Your Spirit burning brightly! We are asking You for this and we are praying for that fire; and we know that when we ask, when we ask in sincerity, You hear us. Hear us, O Jesus! Light that fire in our hearts here in this place tonight. Glory to You, Lord!

SCRIPTURE

John 3: 4 – 8: Nicodemus said, “How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot enter his mother’s womb and be born again, can he?” Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

EXHORTATION

I really like the words: ‘Over and over again’. The Lord asks us to transform ourselves again and again. As Father Dave Pivonka says, “We need to remember over and over again that God loves us, but so many times we forget.” **So remember that God loves each one of us over and over again!**

SHARING

I have to speak of our transformation as well, since Marilyn said something. It came to me, as I was sitting here, that last week we heard that the goal of these prayer meetings is not information or formation, but it is **transformation**. If you come here week after week, and you have not been transformed and have not gotten into a deeper place, then you are not getting the things that you should be getting from these prayer meetings.

SENSE / SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

I feel that someone here tonight needs to hear these words from **Jeremiah**: The Lord is telling you: “The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah.” (**Reference: Jeremiah 33: 14**) We are the house of Israel and the house of Judah. So the day is coming when He shall fulfill the promise He made to you. **Be open to it and receive it!**

IMAGE / PRAYER

When we prayed that song, I had an image of one of those mills that you might see in New England with the huge water wheel. The thought that came to mind was this: The power to drive that mill does not come from the mill itself; the power comes from that flowing water down the spillway that falls upon that wheel, and brings energy and power to the mill. O Lord, Your Holy Spirit is poured forth upon Your people! Your Holy Spirit gives us the power to do Your

holy will. Your Spirit flowing, that mighty water, that living water, that grace, is what gives us the ability to proclaim Your gospel, O Lord, and to share Your love. O Lord, let that river flow, let that water flow! Glory to You, Lord!!

SHARING / IMAGE / EXHORTATION

An image that came to me a few days ago when I was in Adoration was of a very, very blue river – bright blue water. It had a noticeably fast current to it. There was a big rock wall, like a canyon rock wall, behind it. I wasn't sure how to interpret that image. After hearing all of the words here tonight, I realize that the rock wall sets the course of the water flow. But if you are in the river, and in the current of the river, you just have to go with the flow. **It is going to take you wherever it flows, and you just have to have trust.**

SCRIPTURE

Romans 5: 5: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

SHARING

The word ‘transformation’ was spoken earlier, and the word that came into my mind after that was ‘transfiguration’, or ‘transfigured’. There is a song in our church song book, and the chorus of the song is this: “Transfigure us, O Lord, transfigure us, O Lord. Break the chains that bind us; and speak Your healing word, and where You lead we will follow. Transfigure us, O Lord.” The first verse is: “Down from heights of glory into the depths below, the love of God self-emptied, the love of God to show. Light the path before us, the way that we must go.”

(Reference: ‘Breaking Bread’ song book, song # 502)

SHARING / PRAYER

As we are talking about God’s love and transformation, once you experience true love it changes you, you can’t go back to what you had before. It’s like once you have tasted the best ice cream in the world, you can’t go back to a fast- food restaurant’s ice cream anymore. It just isn’t the same! You cannot hide once love touches you. When love touches you, you want to go and shout it out from the roof-tops. “Lord, let me be a reflection, let me be a reflection of this love that You have poured out! Great is the love of the Father that You have lavished among us, that we should be called the children of God.”

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

In one of the **Corinthians**, it says that when we come into the glory of God, more and more we are transformed by His glory. (Reference: **2 Corinthians 3: 18:** “All of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.”) We don’t come here just to learn or to just get information; **we come here to experience the Presence of God because He is always in our midst. He is in our midst every where we go! We can talk about the greatest love story of all; how God loves us each and every day because that is how real and present He is to us.**

