

INSPIRED WORD

August 17, 2016

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for Your love poured forth in this place tonight. Holy Spirit, open our hearts tonight! We ask You to touch every person here. Help us to love, increase in our hearts the love that Jesus has for one another. Help us, Holy Spirit, that we may be open to Your gifts as You pour them forth, that we may be ready to say “Yes” to You when You ask, and that we may look for You – look for Your face, for Your holy Presence here tonight in this sanctuary. Lord, Your love is greater than life! Thank You, Lord! Thank You for Your holy Presence here and for the love You pour down upon us.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 8: The Faith of the Centurion: When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, asking for help. “Lord”, he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.” Jesus said to him, “I will go and heal him.” The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have You come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, He was astonished and said to those following Him, “I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.” Then He said to the centurion, “Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that very hour. **(Verses: 5 – 10, 13 / also Luke 7: 1 – 10)**

SENSE / EXHORTATION

I have a sense that there is one person here (or maybe even more) who feels that they are not worthy. They feel as if there is something between God and them, and it is just a hurdle. They are carrying this burden and guilt and feel like they can’t even ask God. **You can ask God with faith, and it can be done!** So just set aside any guilt or burden tonight. Just come before God, Who loves each of us so very much! It isn’t our job to figure out if He should or shouldn’t love each of us so much. **Just ask Him to come into your life; He is God and He can do all things!**

IMAGE / PROPHECY / EXHORTATION

I had an image like I was in a cottage and it was morning. I opened the door and the sun was shining in. Then I felt like I needed to open up all of the windows. So I pulled up the shades and opened the curtains. I asked God what the image means. He said, “This is what I want you to do with your soul, so that My Presence can fill your soul.”

CONFIRMATION / IMAGE / SENSE / PROPHECY

I confirm that, because just a few minutes ago we sang the song about the marvelous light, and the verses of ‘start my heart beating’, ‘breathe air back into me’ and ‘the refreshing breath’. I too had an image, but it was of someone performing CPR on another person. The sense that I had was that **we do** need a fresh breath; we need that fresh air like in Marilyn’s image with the doors and windows all opened up. But to go another step further, sometimes we may feel like we cannot breathe in that fresh air, and I think that is what the

CPR image is all about. The Lord, says, "I will do it for you; I will make your heart beat. I will breathe the fresh breath into you!"

PROPHECY / EXHORTATION

My beloved ones, I ask you now to sit in silence for one moment because I desire to speak to you. How often have you heard from Me the words, "I love you"? How often have I spoken those words to you? Now I ask these words, "Do you love Me? Do you love Me in such a way that you can accept My love for you? Do you love Me in such a way that you can say, 'Yes, Lord, I accept Your love.?' " These are not easy words, My beloved ones, for to accept My love means that you are willing to surrender. I say to you, if you do not surrender, how deeply can you love Me? Is your heart truly open to Me? Can you say the words, 'I am not afraid; I am not afraid, Lord, because I trust You? Do with me as You desire!' That, My beloved, are the words that you will say if you love Me. For you see, My beloved, because of My love for you, I surrendered and I allowed those to do to Me as they thought they needed to do. So again I speak the words to you, "I love you! Be not afraid! My love for you will not destroy you; my love for you will give you the life that you sing of in: 'Your love is greater than life.'" Breathe deeply, but can you **truly, without fear and in total trust**, say those words and mean them? Often I have spoken to you of the new things that I will do; and again I say to you, "**Things must change, but the change must begin in you!**" To hear my words, "I love you", and not accept them means that they ring hollow in your hearts. Perhaps you are thinking, 'Are You upset, Lord?' I say to you, "No My beloved, I am not upset, but I am sad because you do not allow My love to create change in your hearts." **Ponder on these words, "I love you! Be not afraid, trust Me! Then surrender to Me!"**

EXHORTATION

Let's take a few minutes now to let those words of Prophecy sink deeply into our hearts.

SCRIPTURE / SENSE / EXHORTATION

John 21: 15 – 17: When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My lambs." Jesus then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Jesus, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love You." He said to Simon, "Tend My sheep." Jesus said a third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was distressed that He had said to him a third time, "Do you love Me?" and he said to Jesus, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep." I believe that the Lord is saying to us tonight, "Do you love Me?" And we say, "Yes, Lord", and maybe He asks us again. In the **Gospel of John**, whenever Peter said, "Yes, I love You", He said, "Feed My lambs, tend My sheep." But I think that for us tonight, as we hear those words, we need to open our ears, open our hearts and see what the Lord says to each of us here right now. As we say, "Yes, Lord, I love You", we need to listen to what He says to each of us. To Peter, He said, "Feed My sheep". So when the Lord says, "Do you love Me?", respond and then listen to what He says to you and to what He wants you to do.

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

Before Mel spoke the words of Prophecy, I was reading **Psalm 18** and this is David saying these words: "I love You, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress, and my Deliverer; my God is my Rock, in Whom I take refuge. He is my Shield and the Horn of my salvation, my Stronghold. I call to the Lord, Who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies." Then David goes on to list all of the things that the Lord has done for him. Then he concludes by saying, "Therefore I will praise You among the nations, O Lord; I will sing praises to Your Name. He gives great victories; He shows unfailing kindness to His anointed, to David and his descendants forever." (**Verses: 1 – 3, 49 – 50**) I think that David did it right when he listed all of the things that the Lord had done for him and in him. I think that we should do that in our own lives as well! If we do that, then I don't know how we could doubt that the Lord truly loves us. We are the Lord's anointed to this day; we are the descendants.

IMAGE

I had received this image: Picture in your mind that you are looking at a person's open chest and you can see their heart, and it is dark. Then a hand comes over the heart and covers it. There are cracks in the heart that began to heal and seal up. Light starts to radiate from the heart, and the light keeps getting brighter and brighter as it radiates from in and around the heart.

SUMMARY / EXHORTATION

The Lord told us a lot tonight, and it is a lot to think about. So we don't want to leave here and go into our busy lives and forget His words to us. We heard him ask Peter three times, "Do you love Me?" It is interesting that each time the Lord asked Simon Peter, "Do you love Me?", He waited for the answer. Just like the words He spoke to us tonight in Prophecy, "Ponder on these words, 'I love you! Do not fear, trust Me! Then surrender to Me.'" He doesn't want us to take His message lightly or have it pass quickly when we leave here tonight. The Lord asked, "Do you love Me?" That requires us to respond to Him and we are going to give Him a response, whatever it may be. I think that is what the Lord is calling us to do! Take the time to listen to the words 'I love you', and then let them sink deep into our hearts and understand that He is speaking to each of us.

SENSE

But when we do respond to the Lord, I feel very, very strongly that He then is going to respond to us. As He said to Peter, "Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, feed My sheep", He is going to say to each one of us what He wants each of us to do. That is pretty awesome! I think 'pondering those words' is really what it is all about for this week.