

INSPIRED WORD

August 3, 2016

SCRIPTURE

Sirach 30: 22: (The Wisdom Books) Gladness of heart is the very life of a person, and cheerfulness prolongs his days.

PRAYER

We just revel that in the midst of the circumstances of our lives, this nation and this world, You are Lord of all. You are Lord of all!! You are the Lord of the universe, Lord of all circumstances, Lord of all nations, and Lord of our hearts! In that we take great delight and comfort! Jesus, we give praise to You! Glory to You!

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 3: 16: The Mystery of our Religion: Wonderful indeed is the mystery of our faith, Who is manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed to the Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

SHARING / SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

We have been looking at Divine Appointments and following the inspirations of the Holy Spirit over the last few weeks. Here in this assembly the Charismatic Gifts come to us through inspiration. In other words, they come to us through thoughts that may come into our minds and persist, maybe an image that comes into our mind and persists, maybe a word or two that stays in our minds, or maybe some physical sensations that we might experience. God tries to get our attention in many ways, so that we might use His Charismatic Gifts of the Holy Spirit to build up the body of Christ and for ministry. It is very important that we expect that to happen in ourselves, but also understand how it may happen in us. Tonight two people are going to give their testimonies. They are going to share a little bit about how long they have been here in this group, and why they are here, but also about the gifts that they experienced and, are the gifts different now compared to what they were a few years ago.

Mel speaking: In April 1986 Evelyn and I were sitting at our church which was just down the street with our two girls and our very young son. Father Paul was talking, but what I heard is: "We are having a meeting; it is on Wednesday and I hope that you can come." So when Wednesday came, I really didn't want to go to the meeting, but I didn't want to disappoint Father Paul, so I decided to go for a little while. Then if I didn't like it, I was going to leave and go back home. And here I am!! One year later I was called by (Deacon) Chuck and was asked to pray about being on the pastoral team. So as I prayed, I opened the Bible to **Matthew** and this is what I read: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled by men." But these next verses were the ones that made an impact on me: "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (**Reference: Chapter 5, Verses: 13 – 16**) So I said that I would be part of the pastoral team. In the first month that we started meeting here in this

church (the new church), I was speaking with a woman whom many of you know and I told her that I could almost hear the Lord telling me, "Tell the people this." With all the love and grace that she had, she said to me, "Dummy, that is a prophetic word!" So after that, I became familiar with the prophetic word for the community. In those early days, I was really scared. I was so scared that sometimes I would stand up to say a prophetic word, but I would go to Barb (she was in the front row) and hold her hand for strength! It wasn't easy, I can tell you that! So when some of you hesitate to share the word or words you have been given, I understand! But I say to you, "Hold somebody's hand, and speak the Word of God." I was asked by the pastoral team to give a teaching on Tongues. I said that I would do that and the teaching was due in three weeks. Then I realized that I didn't even have the Gift of Tongues myself! So I told (Deacon) Chuck that he made a mistake in asking me to do this, and that he needed to ask someone else. But he said that the pastoral team had prayed and I was to give that teaching – that I was called to give the teaching! So at home I sat at the table and read through all of my notes. Then I closed my eyes and started to pray; as I prayed I suddenly knew that someone was across the table from me. It was not my wife or kids. So I started speaking to that someone at the table, and that was when I received the Gift of Prayer Tongues.

Another time my wife Evelyn and I had come to Mass and as we were walking out the door, (Deacon) Chuck rushed up to me and asked if I could pray with him and Barb for a couple who had asked for prayers. So we went to the chapel, but I had no idea what we were praying for at that time. When I started to pray, I received an image of two men really arguing with each other, almost to the point that it could become a dangerous situation. I told them that I didn't know what that image means, but I understood that they should go to these men, whom they knew, and pray with them. As it turns out, that was the reason for the prayer request as the two men were their brothers, and they were fighting with each other, but because of their anger with each other, they were disrupting the family. As we started to leave after praying, Barb asked the names of the two brothers so that we could keep them in our prayers. They turned around and said, "One is Melvin, and the other is Donald." Guess what my two names are? See, the Lord does have a sense of humor!! He knows!!

Later I became familiar with the Gift of Word of Knowledge. That is when you know something about someone or something that you had no way of knowing on your own, but the Spirit told you about it. As a teacher, several times I remember having to meet with angry parents about their child, and I had absolutely no idea how to resolve these situations. So before the parents would walk into the room, I said a quick prayer and told the Lord that I had no idea how we are going to resolve these problems. But when we all walked out of the meeting, everything had been understood and worked out and it was a peaceful time. So the Gift of the Word of Wisdom was there with us. That is knowing what to do in a situation because you had the guidance and help of the Lord. So all of these gifts have become very familiar to me since then, but you know what, I still didn't trust God completely. I used to tell God: "Okay, I will use this gift, and I will use that gift, but whatever You do, don't give me this gift! I do not like that gift. That gift attracts too much attention, but not only that, if You give me that gift, people will be bugging me all the time." So I was playing games with the Lord, and maybe some of you do that too. But little by little, I began to trust God more and more, and then it became more comfortable.

Some people ask me, "How do you know that you are supposed to come up and speak?" Early on, I knew that if I didn't speak that my knees were going to fall off. Literally, I would sit in the chair and my knees would just shake, almost banging against each other. Sometimes it was my hands that just shook, so I knew that something obviously was happening to me. The Lord knew that He had to get my attention in some way, or else I would not have stood

up to speak. But little by little, the shaking went away, and sometimes I would get an elevated body warmth; sometimes **'I just knew'**, I don't know how to explain that, but **I just knew**. Now I can walk in the front doors of this church, and I will hear the voice of the Lord saying, "I am going to use you tonight." Then sometimes I will hear the Lord's voice saying, "I am going to give you some words, but don't be anxious, you will know when it is the right time." Other times I will be sitting in the chair, and I don't know how to explain it, but you know that you have to speak. So I will walk up here to the microphone and I will have no idea whether I am supposed to speak, or whether it will be words in English, or prophecy in Tongues. I don't know that, but I know that I am supposed to come up here. But as I told you before, the worst that could happen is that nothing happens, so then you go back and sit down in your chair, as it is not that far of a walk! So you learn to trust the Lord, and you will know. We make it really difficult, think about it, there are only two things that are necessary in order to carry out what the Lord is calling to say or do. The first one is: Can you do it? We all have a voice here, so we all can do it! All of you can speak. The second one is: Do you trust God? That is only what you have to know! Am I capable of doing it, and do I trust God to tell me what to say? So right now, I want you to close your eyes and visualize yourself looking into a mirror and see your own face in that mirror. Confess to yourself right now; can you honestly say to yourself in that mirror that "I have never had a word"; "I have never had a thought"; "I have never gotten an image", "I have never gotten a scripture verse"; "I have never felt any promptings that I should say or do something". Open your eyes, and now I am going to say to you, "If you said 'yes' to any of those things, then I challenge you to trust the Lord to use your voice to speak what you get! If you can honestly say 'no, I have never gotten any of these things', then I am going to tell you to challenge the Lord, and say, "Lord, why haven't you ever given me any of these things?" Because I dare to say that **if you have been coming here for more than one year, maybe even more than one week, you have gotten at least one of those things that I have mentioned!!** All it takes is for you to use your voice and trust the Lord! **So why don't we then stand up from our chair or the pew and come up here and share what we have been given by the Lord?** Sometimes we can say, "I stayed because I was in just too much pain"; "I stayed because sometimes I was just too tired"; "I stayed because sometimes I just didn't want to come up"; "I stayed because sometimes I was really upset with someone here". But you see, I stayed because I knew that if I came up, when I walked out of here, I would feel better than I did when I walked in here. So sometimes I stayed because of selfish reasons, but now I want you to know that I stayed because I just love to praise the Lord with all of you! And when we are traveling and not here, I want you to know that at 6 pm your time here, wherever I am, I start praying for you that you will be open to what the Lord is giving you and that you will be open to speaking the words to this community. Because as many of you know, **this is my prayer group and I will do anything, anything that I can, to get this community to praise and worship God and to use His gifts!!** Thank you.

Katerina G. speaking: First of all, am I the only one burning up in here? I think that my heart is on fire! For those who don't know, I joined this praise and worship group because I was invited to come, after attending a Life in the Spirit Seminar back in 2007. I came and got scared rather quickly because it was very foreign to me – people were raising their hands. I remember Mel going up to the microphone and speaking in Tongues and that did it for me! I thought that this is too weird! I stayed away for a year, and then went to another Life in the Spirit Seminar, and was invited again to come to this praise and worship group. So I thought that I would give it another try, and I have stayed ever since then. I have been gone here and there lately but due to personal things going on. I have had a lot of challenges, but a lot of

growth also. But I have always been feeling a draw to come here; it is an unexplainable feeling like “You are supposed to be there!” I love to come and worship the Lord, and I love to sing to the Lord.

I have experienced the anointing of the Holy Spirit by Word of Knowledge. I get pain in my body as a Word of Knowledge for people and then I know that they need healing in certain areas of their body. The pain can happen anywhere in my body; it happens a lot in my heart – I get a lot of sharp pains in my heart for people, but it can happen anywhere in my body. I have found that if He gives me pain in my shoulder but I didn’t have that shoulder pain before I came here, then I know it is for someone here, and I come up and share that with everyone. A lot of times I feel heat in my hands which I know then that someone needs healing here. A couple of times here, I have experienced ‘electricity’ in my arms and in my hands; it is hard to explain, but it is like electricity, that is all I can say. But then I know that someone needs prayer for healing. I get a lot of images, but in the last year or so, I have been going through a dry time and haven’t been getting very many, and I am not sure why that is happening. But when I do get them, I do come up and share them because I get a real strong urge that I have to get up and share. He won’t take that strong urge away until I share what I am getting with everybody.

Another gift I get is the Discernment of Spirit; it doesn’t always happen, but a lot of times I feel the presence of evil or even the presence of angels.

I had read a book about healing and the laying on of hands, and I felt heat in my hands when I was at home, so I put my hands on a rash on my daughter’s leg. A few days went by and then she came to tell me that the rash on her leg was gone. So praise God she was healed! That was my first experience with healing, and being at home was sort of a safe place to start with healing.

Back in about 2009 or so, I was at the Denver airport eating dinner there. All of a sudden the Lord was telling me to “pray for that woman over there at the table.” And I thought, ‘You want me to do **what?**’ I was eating and I thought, ‘He wants me to leave my luggage and my dinner here and go over and pray for that woman, I don’t know that I can do that!’ I didn’t do it, but He kept telling and urging me to do it. He revealed to me that the woman has problems with her knee. I finished my dinner, but she got up and started to walk away. It is good to be obedient to the Lord, but it is scary! Part of my struggle with my walk in the Spirit is my fear of rejection, maybe what other people are going to tell me, or what are other people going to think of me. **We have to put ourselves aside; it is not about us! It is about sharing God with other people!**

This is the last story I want to share: Last summer I was at an airport in California and went to a restaurant there as I had a lot of time to spare. I didn’t know that the Holy Spirit had something in mind for me again. I sat down and David, the waiter, took my order. The Lord started to sort of ‘download’ David’s heart within me; I don’t know how to explain it. But it was like a ‘download’ of where David was in his life; that he was looking for all of these worldly things as his god. The Lord told me that He wanted me to talk to David; and there again, I was struggling with it and thinking that I couldn’t do it. I asked the Lord, “How do I do that? I don’t know what to say to him!” So the Lord told me that He will give me the words to say. So I waited until David brought the bill to me and then I knew that this was my last chance to talk to him. I told him, “This might sound strange to you, but the Lord was telling me these words and wanted me to share them with you!” David was very, very blessed by it, and he said, “This is what I needed to hear.” There was another person in that restaurant that the Holy Spirit wanted me to encourage as well. These things aren’t anything that you plan, it is just sort of ‘as you go’. God will give you things like that; He doesn’t give you preparation for any of it in advance. There also was a guy sitting near me and I heard the words, “Tell that

guy that he has a great singing voice!" And I thought, "What? You want me to do what??" I didn't know how to say it, so I just asked him, "Do you happen to be a singer?" He said, "Yes, I am a lead singer in a band. How did you know that about me?" I told him that I didn't, but the Lord knew and He wanted me to tell you that you are a great singer. The guy was shocked and didn't say much after that. But that was it, and honestly it is very scary to step out do things like that.

Back in 2009 I probably was more obedient in coming up and sharing, but I literally had to sit down here in the front row and could not face anybody. I was so shy and introverted and I was so scared to death! But I know that if I can do it, you also can do it and the Holy Spirit is going to give you strength as you step out in faith to do these things. Today I am not even nervous about coming up here and talking to all of you because I am stepping out in faith. Please take that first step out in faith, even if you have to come up here and face toward the altar instead of facing toward the people. But it will get easier each time you do that!

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 27: 4 – 6: One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His Temple. For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His Dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of His Tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at His Tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

CONFIRMATION

The last couple of nights my prayer time has been late lately – around 11:30 p.m. to midnight. On both nights I kept getting all of these verses that were going through my head that had to do with singing to the Lord and singing joyfully. At first I thought it was just a coincidence, but now I think that it is a confirmation.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 14: 8 – 10: In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

EXHORTATION

Let's take a few minutes now and ask the Lord to speak to us in our hearts.

SHARING

I am getting the words: "Wisdom and peace."

SHARING

I am told that I should ask for prayer, but I am not exactly sure for what or why. So if everyone could pray for me, I would appreciate it.

(Praying for the needs of others too.)

PROPHECY

My people, what do I have to do to convince you of my love for you? I freed you from the slavery of the Egyptians and from oppression. And once and for all, from the bondage of sin

through sending you My Son Jesus, and then I tell you with My very essence, by sending you My own Spirit to dwell in you. Know that I love you and nothing can separate you from My perfect love.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

I have a confirmation of that perfect love which God has been talking about. This is from **Psalm 136: 1 – 9**: “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever; give thanks to the God of gods, for His mercy endures forever; give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His mercy endures forever; Who alone does great wonders, for His mercy endures forever; Who made the heavens in wisdom, for His mercy endures forever; Who spread out the earth upon the waters, for His mercy endures forever; Who made the great lights, for His mercy endures forever; the sun to rule over the day, for His mercy endures forever; the moon and the stars to rule over the night, for His mercy endures forever.” This Psalm continues on and it mentions 26 times about the Lord’s mercy enduring forever. I believe that there are some Bible translations which substitutes the word ‘mercy’ for the ‘love of God endures forever’. So His mercy and His love endures forever! And that is what He is saying in the message of Prophecy which we just heard here tonight. The Psalm continues on and talks about the Egyptians, by the way, and how He saved His people and His mercy and love endures forever. So we thank You, Lord, that Your mercy and love endures forever!

SCRIPTURE

I wasn’t sure about sharing this, but the Egyptians were mentioned, so I have this in **Deuteronomy**. This is after they have left Egypt and Moses is telling the people that they are going to the Promise Land. This is it: “I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, heeding His voice, and holding fast to Him. **(Chapter 30: 19 – 20)**”

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 2: 10 – 14: The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit Who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God.

IMAGE / SHARING

I had an image earlier, and it kind of ties in to what we ask, “How do you know when to share it?” Sometimes I will say, “Lord, give me a clue when I need to share this with the community here.” I think it now fits! The image was Jesus as our Good Shepherd. But my niece bought the farm and she has sheep. She is their shepherd, but she doesn’t do it by herself. She has guardian dogs that are specially trained to live in the field with the sheep all day and night long. My niece just got another dog who is a herder dog to help the guardian dog. The guardian dog keeps the wolves and the other animals away from the sheep and makes sure that the sheep stay in the pen. The herder dog brings the sheep to where they need to go at the sound of my niece’s voice and her call. The image of the guardian dog and the herder dog is that they keep us safe and assist the shepherd who watches over us. That could be the Holy Father, our pastor, scripture, teachers, our spouses, our parents, or family and friends who can fill that role of Jesus’ helper, our Shepherd’s helper, guiding us and keeping

us safe. He also calls us to fill that 'helper' roll for others, to be that community for someone else, to be that teacher, that mentor, who gives love, laughter, accountability, support and model Christ for each other; to help keep each other safe as the Shepherd guides us.

Always as the Shepherd guides!

PRAYER

Lord, we give You praise and thanksgiving for Your grace, Your mercy, Your love, and for Your holy Presence here. Now we pray that You would be with us as we go, inspire us with Your Spirit that we might be intercessors of Your love in all situations and in all places. We ask this in Your Holy Name, the Name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.