

Prophecies for September 21, 2008

One of the words, the messages, that came out last week and over and over at the women's retreat, and from what I gathered, it came up prophetically here, too — so God is speaking the same thing at the same time — is the only opinion of you that really matters is God's. And our tendency to cling to our bad opinions of ourselves is not humility, is not even wise, it is not truthful. It's pride, stupidity, whatever you want to call it, thinking we know better than God who we are. And He was thinking of us above all. He thinks we're very valuable whether we realize that or not. It's not self-esteem, because it doesn't have to do with self. It's realizing who we are in God's eyes, and that He made us, and we are precious. If He made us, we're worthwhile. And there's no better truth we can cling to than what He says about us.

There are two temptations when hard times come. These last few weeks have had hard times for a lot of people. The two temptations are to believe God doesn't care, or alternatively, that God can't do anything about it. God says today, "I do care, and I have all the power to do everything about it. That injustice that makes you mad, it makes Me mad, too. The things that break your heart break My heart. In fact they break my heart more, because I'm perfect and the imperfections of this world hurt Me more." So the Lord seems to be saying that whatever you might be going through, whatever trials and tribulations, you have to believe A) He loves you beyond any other love in the world, and B) He has the power to help you. And you have to take what He has to give. The injustice of this world is not so much that He doesn't care, it's that people won't let God do anything about it. So we must not pretend that God doesn't have the power to handle it or that God doesn't love us. We must take what God has to give, because He does love us and gets extremely mad when people hurt us or any of His children. So I pray, Lord, that You will give us arms open to Your love that You have to give and that we may show justice and peace and love to others.

This morning what keeps running through my head over and over again may be the word of the Lord or maybe it's what I had for breakfast. It's a combination of John Lennon and Solomon — Love is all you need and everything else is vanity and chasing after wind.

All of us have been a victim of something sometime in our lives. But we don't have to stay a victim. We don't have to be a victim. Circumstances happen, but we have a place to go. If we place those situations at the throne, we don't have to be the victim.

Prophecies for September 28, 2008

As we were singing that previous praise song, a line from the prayer book just kept running through my head over and over again.

We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

Lord, we are indeed thankful for our creation, for keeping us alive to this very day. Lord, for all the incredible ways in which you've blessed us in this life in which we are far, far insufficiently grateful. But, Lord, everything of this earth and that you have given us on this earth pales into invisibility, into nothingness when you compare with the hope that is set before us, the hope of eternal life, the hope

which was paid for on the cross of Calvary by the blood of Thy Son. For we do indeed all deserve to die. We have over and over and over again done those things which are worthy of death. All the wages of all sin is death. But, Lord, in Your mercy, You did not abandon us. You sent Your Son to pour out His blood for us to give us the means of grace and the hope of glory. And for that, Lord, we do raise our great Eucharist, our great thanksgiving.

Something that kept coming to me during that song also, I'm not sure exactly what the pieces of it are, buteverything washed away by Your mercy. The image I was getting was the things we are clinging onto are causing us to drown, and that we've got to let go of it and let it be washed away, so that we don't drown. If we feel like we're drowning it's probably because we're holding on to something we needed to let go of. But the sense I got was it's not just sins that are washed away in His mercy, it's a lot of other stuff. The thing I was getting right now probably has to do with what's been going on around us — is fear. That if we hold onto fear we will drown, and I mean, even just in physicality someone who is drowning and is flailing is very hard to rescue. We've got to stop flailing and stop holding onto that fear and let it go, so that we can be rescued. And remember Who it is who is going to rescue us. And His name is not Paulson or Bernanke or whatever else it is you're worried about – Citgo or whoever we're waiting to come rescue us. Ain't going to be that. So, I pray, Lord, that you will enable us to let go of those things and those fears that are causing us to sink, and let You wash them away with Your mercy.

The Lord is not surprised, because He hears our prayers and we lift up our nation before Him and pray we'll have moral leadership and His light to shine on, and these dark things have to be exposed. Lord, we just pray that You would be with the leaders in Washington, Lord. Pierce their hearts, Lord. I pray that Your light will shine. Just reveal everything, Lord, everything, that nothing will be hidden, Lord. We need to be in prayer about this time in our nation.

Blessed is the word, the promises of the Lord poured out upon all people ... acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior. We pray as we go through these times that we will not walk in fear. That You will allow us to share that peace with the many others who don't know You and are lost. Give us the words to say at the time to speak