



2019-2010 Second Saturday | Drawing with Joy from the Wells of Salvation ~ Isaiah 12:3 Fall Theme + DEEPENING OVER TIME

The deep wells of salvation, like God's love, are unfathomable, but not inaccessible. This year we're asking God for a deeper experience of His Spirit, His river of living water flowing out through us (Jn 7:37-39). What does it mean to draw from the deep wells of salvation, with joy?

Paul wrote of the fullness of God, of Christ being fully formed in us. We are to reflect His glory, changed through the Holy Spirit to ever-increasing glory throughout our lives. This fall has been about choosing to give God access to bring change in deep areas of our hearts and spirits.

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER • The lives of Peter, and Mary, Jesus' mother, are wonderfully encouraging, affirming how God has planned for us, and how His hand is on us, using events and personal challenges to draw us deeper in our knowledge of Him.

October: Peter's Deeper Call | Mt 4:18-20 ~ Jn 21:7-17

Peter, a fisherman, had spent his working life on the water. Jesus stepped into his world to call and train him to be a "fisher of men." Walking on water was one of Peter's faith lessons. ✨ Peter the disciple often operated out of his own strength and judgment, missing the deep transformation Jesus had for him. After he denied Jesus and returned to fishing, Jesus again met Peter on the shoreline—his own turf, for a face-to-face encounter. Through his questions he gave Peter a chance to respond from the core of his heart where his love and submission to Jesus was drawn on without the blockage of his own agenda. He knew that he loved Jesus and would tend His sheep. Yet, he and all the disciples could not go forward until the Spirit had baptized them at Pentecost.

November: Thirsting, Believing and Asking for More*

Jn 7:37-39 ~ Lk 11:1-13

Jesus method with us, as with Peter, is often to ask us a question that will help us open ourselves, through our own questions, to the thing he wants to teach us. In Luke 11 Jesus extends a teaching on how to pray to the deeper topic of the Holy Spirit's role. Our Father has a greater gift which we can have if we ask, seek, and knock. ✨ Our message was about our own turning points. He helps us **open ourselves**, to choose to deal with barriers so that he can take us further and deeper. Times at the crossroads in our lives can be precious times of transformation, and of preparation for our true or deeper call in His purposes for us. This can include a greater capacity for the living water of the Spirit to flow from us as barriers are removed and the formation of Christ in us progresses. We may need to wait for fresh infilling of the Spirit in order to be equipped for God's next assignment.

* Teaching and handouts available at <http://allthingsnewprayer.org>

December: Christ in Me, the Hope of Glory

Lk 1:26-38 • II Cor. 3:17-18 • Col. 1:24-28

IDENTIFYING AS SERVANTS

We segue to this topic through Mary's story. She identified herself as the handmaiden or servant of the Lord. As such, her heart is **open** and surrendered to God. The Holy Spirit is released to overshadow her through her response of faith.

Today's teaching is a further look at how we, as servants of the Lord, can personally open our lives to the deeper things God has for us. We see the role of the Holy Spirit. He is the element of "mystery" in bringing God's purposes into existence when we invite both His power and His inner working to mature us in Christ.

GOD INITIATES | Jack Paulson

He asks things of us including things that are, to us, a mystery. Our "Yes" is a step of faith, the answer of a servant who trusts and obeys. Zechariah, Mary and Joseph all had angel encounters during the months leading up to the birth of Jesus. Zechariah was rebuked by Gabriel for his unbelief, Mary declared her willingness to accept whatever the Lord had for her, and Joseph accepted the angel's word as true and acted accordingly. During the Advent season, we can take time to consider what the Lord is speaking to us about and how we are responding.

✦ Personal comment: "I know that I have asked for a sign when the Lord asked me to take a step of obedience. I'm learning gradually to trust that I can take Him at His word, and he is faithful to keep me as I take steps of obedience."

LIVING THE PROCESS | Paul Currie

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is an astounding person in the story of Christ's birth. But her witness isn't restricted to the Christmas story or only to a role as his mother. Mary's life story is no less powerful or instructive than those of Moses, Abraham, Samuel, Ruth, David, Peter, Paul....and Jesus. Though Scripture doesn't provide much detail beyond the birth narrative and the crucifixion, there is much the Spirit can guide us to in all that is between and surrounding those events of her life. She was a person like any of us, called by God, who responded to

that great risk, pain, struggle, confusion, loss and grief, as well as the joy of growing as a faithful follower of the Lord through the power of the Spirit. She said, “Yes, Lord,” but the battle she fought, like ours, was lifelong and often arduous—with eternal reward.

CENTERED IN HIS PEACE | Diane Paulson

In reflecting on *Christ in Me the Hope of Glory*, the image of staying upright on a paddleboard came to mind. In order not to flip out over daily circumstances, we need to constantly center our weight, our lives, on Christ in us, the hope of Glory!

Pondering the Christmas story of Mary’s dialogue with Gabriel, the angel, gives us key life lessons. Even though she didn’t understand what was happening she kept listening and asking questions. We may not be receiving direct messages from an angel or understand what’s happening in our lives, but the Lord invites us to keep listening and asking questions. Gabriel’s messages and Mary’s humility and openness to the Spirit coming, teach us as we keep coming to Him. Gabriel spoke to Mary and the Spirit wants to speak the same messages to us:

- 1 “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God”
 - HE wants to give us PEACE and speak forth our identity. We are loved and favored.
- 2 “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.” ▪ The Lord also promises us the Holy Spirit and that HE will come and live in us. That is Christ in us, the hope of Glory!!! We need to affirm this!
- 3 “For nothing will be impossible with God” ▪ I love it that He gave the testimony of Elizabeth’s miraculous pregnancy. We need the support of the body & the work of the LORD to encourage us!
- 4 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” ▪ The Lord is also looking to us for a response. To me the teaching about the baptism of the Holy Spirit is about totally surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus, saying that we are His servants.

II Peter 3:8-13 ✱ ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Psalm 18:28-39

- For it is you who light my lamp;
the Lord my God lightens my darkness.
- ²⁹ For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.
- ³⁰ This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.
- ³¹ For who is God, but the Lord?
And who is a rock, except our God?—
- ³² the God who equipped me with strength
and made my way blameless.
- ³³ He made my feet like the feet of a deer
and set me secure on the heights.
- ³⁴ He trains my hands for war,
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
- ³⁵ You have given me the shield of your salvation,
and your right hand supported me,
and your gentleness made me great.
- ³⁶ You gave a wide place for my steps under me,
and my feet did not slip.
- ³⁷ I pursued my enemies and overtook them,
and did not turn back till they were consumed.
- ³⁸ I thrust them through, so that they were not
able to rise; they fell under my feet.
- ³⁹ For you equipped me with strength for the battle;
you made those who rise against me sink under me.

DEEP CALLS TO DEEP: DEVELOPING A HEARING HEART | Chris Nelson

Areas of our soul are brought to life—“birthed,” through dialog with the Lord. Knowing His voice takes time and practice. Like physical birthing, it requires concentration and focus. Our resources will be dedicated to nourishing what is growing in our soul. The outcome is a living stream of communication with the Lord, by His Spirit. Deep calls to deep. Deepening happens over time, and we can see this open flow of prayerful listening as an ever-deepening access to the deep Source of pure living water.

Present to God’s Presence in Me ▪ Practical Measures (See also the handout: Invitation to His Presence)

Listening hearts enable us to hear at a deep level

- ~ Listening is a process of developing a heart that is responsive to God’s voice.
 - ~ We can grow, through our love for Him, to treasure and recognize the ONE voice of our beloved. In moments when we need His reassurance, His affirmation and love nurtures our hearts.
 - ~ As we learn to listen in small things we become more able to hear in things of great consequence.
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Invitation to His Presence

Offering

The season of Advent and Christmas involves a particular way of seeking and honoring the Lord. We are moved to reflect on a gift we can give Him: the offering of something more of ourselves in fragrant adoration and prayer.



Consider the mystery of Mary's responsiveness to God, offering her life, body, and destiny—letting God draw upon everything in order to serve His purposes through His life within her. Look beyond to our Lord Jesus, God incarnate in a human body, making the way for His life to be incarnate in us! (See Phil. 2:5-7) We may contemplate the fragrance of Mary's offering: "be it unto me as you have said" (Lk. 1:38). We can invite the Lord to deepen our appreciation of what is pleasing to Him—the sweet aroma that can rise to Him from our lives.

Responding ✠ Giving and Receiving

Based on scriptures included below

Openness Consider how a flower unfolding gives off its unique, living aroma, or the tree we decorate that gives off the wonderful smell of its resins in the warmth of our home. Think of the pleasure of removing the cover of savory food cooking on the stove, or unwrapping a gift of fine soap. It is in the opening that the fragrance is released. Our prayers and acts of worship, expressed from the heart, are openings. They require us to go deeper into those moments before the Lord where we listen deeply and pray and worship from the depth of our soul rather than the level of immediate needs and surface thoughts. The essence of our hearts, released to Him in worship or simply being in His presence, is fragrant to Him.

Invitation to Us: Be More in His presence

1. **FRAGRANT:** The fragrance of Jesus is released through those who are in His presence often.
 - + It restores us to our right place: we have died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God (See Col.3:3).
 - + It is sweet, disarming, and convicting as our hearts open in the Light. (John 12:2-3)
 - + It orients us. To have soaked in His presence helps us live there throughout a day.
 - + It draws us to be quieted at a deep level because we have partaken deeply of His peace.
 - + It can enrich our prayer lives: less "mental" prayer, more ministering to the Lord in loving worship.

2. **WASHED:** Soaking in a bathtub, our pores are cleansed more deeply. Soaking in His presence allows deeper parts of our hearts to be cleansed. Hidden sins are recognized and dealt with as we bathe in His holy light.



3. **AT HIS FEET:** We may need to balance out the Martha with more of Mary's posture, at His feet. He "*uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life*" (II Cor. 2:14-16). This aroma is a kind of witness.



- + We carry His fragrance into our gatherings as He leads us, a fragrance from life to life with sweet power to disarm, to awaken, and to leave an impression.
- + We may need to recognize the unspoken influence we have on those around us. (Think about people you've met whose very presence seemed to draw you toward the Lord, or inspire you to be more pure, full of light, etc.)
- + It is important to pray over those we will encounter in this season. Are there people on His heart who need "the fragrance from life to life"?

For Reflection and Prayer

Reflect on the fragrance of Jesus' offering of His life, and the scriptures that *open our hearts* to what pleases the Lord. Through the questions below, ask Him to help you better recognize how, in recent months, 1) He has drawn you to Himself in love, and 2) you have opened your life to Him in a fragrant way.

- 1 - How have you felt deeply loved by the Lord?
 - 2 - How have you opened your life to Him in a deeper way?
 - 3 - Is there evidence of His fragrance in your life?
 - ~ something given to you as an expression of His love?
 - ~ something new being "birthed" in you?
 - 4 - Reflecting on these questions: What do you want the Lord to deepen or nurture in you during Advent?
 - 5 - What does it mean to you that the Lord would call you to more time in His presence and to pour out your love for Him?
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Inner Life: Drawing Deeply from the Well

Present to God's Presence in Me: Practical Measures (continued)

Our familiarity with His voice opens a path in the core of our being

- ~ we really know, in our inmost being: He knows and loves me
- ~ from head to heart, this truth flows freely from my heart to others, sincerely, from a tender heart
- ~ when this is missing we need to go back to Him to renew the settled confidence of this core relationship

We give God "permission" to open up of the flow of His life in us.
It is a process of hope

- ~ Image of channel dug to the core of our being: water is flowing upward and becomes a bubbling spring on the surface. It symbolizes how he can break through barriers to the "pipeline" of His living water – the Spirit's presence in us.
- ~ Mining for soul's treasure; parts of ourselves that need to be called forth so His life can be expressed through us
- ~ Delicate process in our souls. God is a careful surgeon of the heart. In His light damage, contaminants, other barriers to our progress are repaired/re-formed: Christ "fully formed" in me!

Listening: "Let Me Train You!" (p. 2, Second Saturday handout)

- ~ declutter/sorting pathways of our mind: learn His voice through practice
- ~ learn to differentiate my own thoughts from His thoughts
- ~ increasing love for Him: able to recognize voice of beloved speak to me, His loved one: encouraging, affirming, and giving correction without condemnation
- ~ in mix of many voices we can pick His out
- ~ learning to listen in small things we can also hear in things of more consequence
- ~ value our growth in trusting the voice of God for the sake of what the Spirit is doing in and through us.

Fragrance is released when closed things are opened. In God's presence, when we experience His love for us, and express ours for Him, hard places are softened. Knowing this gives us hope. We are **loved** even in places of weakness and failure. Like sap of a tree, the essence of its life, He opens a way to the essence of who we are as His created ones.

- ~ Do we know we are loved by the Lord? To know His love as an experience becomes the deep orientation of our soul and the fuel for how we serve. It provides for an open flow. We are released to practice Jesus' kind of love toward others from the wellspring of our own heart.
- ~ Responsiveness – a key. We can draw on this bedrock reality when we find it hard to love someone—including ourselves. We can open the cause of our trouble without fear because of the bonds of love formed in His presence and our experience in serving Him. We remain receptive because we know we are loved as ourselves. This loving dialog keeps our lives "fragrant" and our hearts supple and open to Him.

SCRIPTURE

FRAGRANCE | AROMA ✦ Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. John 12:2-3

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Eph 5:1-2

I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. Phil. 4:18

But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?
II Cor 2:14-16

PERFUME ✦ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. ✦ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Mk 7:36-39; 44-47



INCENSE ✦ May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. Ps 141:2

And when he had taken [the scroll], the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. Rev. 5:8

PLEASING TO GOD ✦ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Heb. 13:16

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Rns 12:1

c) As you look forward, what would you like to entrust into Father's hands today? If you need courage, hope, faith—whatever you anticipate, name it and commit it to Him. Then ask the Lord to show you what **He** sees, and wants you to see, about the path ahead.

4 Diane Paulson also talked about process and the need to be centered in God's peace. Reflect on the list below. Where are you most centered, and where do you need more balance?

- ⊕ continuing to ask of God, listening and receiving His counsel

- ⊕ asking God to help you maintain peace in your identity as His beloved and cared for child / servant

- ⊕ affirming within, and before the Lord, that He is in you, for the increase of His glory. Consider how you might need more understanding of what this means and ask Him to show you

- ⊕ in the area of support from others, and toward others, for the sake healthy spiritual balance

- ⊕ in the balance of drawing more on the Holy Spirit and His power as you walk out God's purposes in your life

5 Chris Nelson talked about the simple but life-changing choice we have to OPEN ourselves and our lives to the Lord. We can talk about the wells of salvation from different but related viewpoints:

- the source of our redemption in Christ
- the presence of the Holy Spirit— the river of living water flowing from us (Jn 7:39)
- the deep love of God on which we can always draw (Eph. 3:17b-19)
- the water that quenches our deepest thirst (Jn 4:10-14)

a) Ask the Lord how He would have you “draw” from the wells of salvation. Write, or draw a picture of what comes to you.

b) Chris also mentioned how we can give God permission to remove barriers that block the flow of His Spirit life. Ask the Lord if there is a particular area of your life where He wants to free you in some way.

c) "Present to God's Presence In Me" | Practical measures that take time to develop were discussed. Is the Lord prompting you to begin or go deeper in some area of your prayer life? Which area (listening, fragrance, inner healing work) stands out to you? Ask the Lord for His help in this deeper work.

6 After Communion, Pastor Fred Thoni, pastor at Elmwood Church for many years, will pray for any who would like to receive the baptism of the Spirit. He will offer a brief teaching about it and what it means in a Christian's life. Is this a step you would like to take today? Talk to the Lord about your desire, or any hesitation you may have about this step. Let Him speak to you about this step.

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

Fred Thoni

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Billy Graham put it this way: "They had no Bibles, no seminaries nor Bible schools. No radios or telephones. No printing presses. No churches. Nothing! However, they turned the world upside down in one generation. What did they have? They had an experience with the living Christ. They had the filling of the Holy Spirit."

John 16:7 -

"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away the Helper (Paracletos) shall not come to you, but if I go, I will send Him to you."

Luke 11:11-13 -

"Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Luke 24:49 -

"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Acts 1:4 -

"And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, which, He said, you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:8 -

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Matthew 3:11 -

"As for me, I baptize you in water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not even fit to remove His sandals; He Himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Mark 1:7 & 8; Luke 3:16; John 1:26-33)

Joel 2:28 & 29 -

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions, even upon the menservants and maidservants in those days, I will pour out My Spirit."

Old Testament action of the Holy Spirit upon Moses, Judges, the prophets, kings, craftsmen, and musicians.

Acts 2: 1-4 -

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

vs. 14-35 - Peter preaches the Gospel

vs. 37 - Brethren, what shall we do?

vs. 38 - Repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Spirit

vs. 29 - The promise is for you!! >> 3,000 souls added that day!

Acts 2: 1-41 - Jerusalem and Judea

Acts 8: 5-18 - Samaria

Acts 10 - Cornelius (Gentiles)

Acts 19:1-6 - Ephesus

Acts 2: 39 -

“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off.”

NEW TESTAMENT TERMS FOR RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

(being sent) what the Father promised	Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 2:33
the gift of God	Acts 8:20, 11:17
receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:38
receiving the Holy Spirit	Acts 8:17, 19, 10:47, 19:2, (cf., John 7:39, 14:17, 20:22; I Cor. 2:12; Gal. 3:2; Rom. 8:15)
being filled with the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:4, 9:17 (note: this term is also used for special “fillings” subsequent to the initial “filling”: Acts 4:8, 4:31, 7:55, 13:9; Eph. 5:18; Luke 1:41, 67)
being baptized in the Holy Spirit	Acts 1:5, 11:16 (cf., Mark 1:8; Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; I Cor. 12:13)
being clothed with power	Luke 24:49 (Acts 1:8 - similar)
the Holy Spirit comes on	Acts 19:6 (Luke 2:27)
the Holy Spirit falls upon (comes down on)	Acts 10:44, 11:15
the Holy Spirit is poured out on	Acts 2:33, 10:45
the Spirit is given	Acts 8:18 (John 7:39; I John 3:24, 4:13; Luke 11:13; I Thess. 4:8; II Cor. 1:22, 5:5; II Tim. 1:6)