

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP AT 11

**Sunday February 11, 2018**

**These notes are posted to help you take a few minutes to prepare for worship through reading the scripture and thinking about the songs!**

**SCRIPTURE:** Read Exodus 4:13-16. Moses just wouldn't agree to accept the Lord's plan for him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, he said: O Lord, please send someone else to do it. God finally agreed to let Aaron speak for Moses. Moses's feelings of inadequacy were so strong that he could not trust even God's ability to help him. Moses had to deal with his deep sense of inadequacy many times. When we face situations which are too difficult or frightening, we must be willing to let God help us. Here's a verse by a writer named Kelly Willard: If you don't have a willing heart, ask God to give you one. If you can't seem to make a start, trust in his power. For the Lord of Love is watching you; He sees what you're going through, and he will make a way if you want him to. Oh, do you want him to? Then tell him so.

## **SONGS:**

**Grace Like Rain---**Here's a portion of the song text: *Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see so clearly. Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me. Hallelujah, and all my stains are washed away, they're washed away...* Accepting Jesus's grace, confessing and repenting sin, leads to pardon and frees the Holy Spirit to empower the Word of God in us to complete his work ordained for us!

**Here I Am to Worship---**Here's two verses from Psalm 63: *So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open, drinking in your strength and glory. In your generous love I am really living at last! My lips brim praises like fountains. I bless you every time I take a breath; My arms wave like banners of praise to you.* You have made a conscious decision to be present in worship this morning. Hopefully you have had time to preview these notes and have an idea of what will be discussed this morning. Take one last second at the sanctuary door and take a deep breath and exhale tension or doubt or thing in you before you join with others to worship. Invite the Holy Spirit to take control of your mind and heart as you present yourself to God in worship.

**The Stand---**Here are five verses to think about when singing The Stand:

1. Colossians 1:15-20. Here we see Christ as maker of ~~all~~ things and ~~first~~born over all creation. Christ is Lord over creation and is holding all things together. *"You stood before creation, eternity in Your hand. You spoke the earth into motion. My soul now to stand."*

The last line of this verse is the good news of the gospel. If we put our faith in Jesus, and it is through Jesus that God ~~re~~concile[d] to himself all things, our soul stands in the work of our Savior.

2. Romans 6:5. *“If you have been united with him in his death, we will certainly be united with him in his resurrection.”*

Christ’s death and resurrection was not in vain. Throughout Romans Paul argues that Jesus’s sacrifice is a substitutionary atonement. In other words, His victory over the grave becomes our victory over the grave.

*“You stood before my failure, and carried the cross for my shame. My sin weighed upon your shoulders, my soul, now to stand.”*

When we sing about Christ’s sacrifice for us we must also remember his victory is given to us. The power of this stanza is that we recognize it is Jesus’s victory that allows us to stand, not our own efforts.

3. 1 John 1:7. *“If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”*

With this verse the apostle John is reminding us where it is Christians must walk. As we journey through life, we must always remember where true fellowship is found: in the light and truth of Jesus Christ.

*“So I’ll walk upon salvation, your Spirit alive in me. This life to declare Your promise, My soul now to stand.”*

What does it mean to ~~w~~alk upon salvation? When the Lord saves us he does not take us immediately out of the world. Rather, we must journey in this world with the guidance of the Spirit.

As we walk in the light we are the ambassadors of God. Our actions declare the grace of the Lord. Therefore we can stand in the light, walk in salvation, and serve our God with the daily help of the Spirit.

4. Ezekial 36:26. *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”*

The Stand is a song about our new standing before the Lord because of His sacrifice for us. We cannot stand before the Lord unless he has effected regeneration in us.

In this passage the Lord promises to put in us a new, regenerated, and Christ-exalting heart. As children of the Lord, we offer our hearts to Him not because we’re good people, but because He has given us a heart that seeks Him.

*“So what can I say? And what can I do? But offer this heart, Oh God, completely to you.”*

There is only one God-glorifying response to receiving a regenerated heart: offering that heart back to the Lord. As we sing this verse, we declare God as Lord and savior over our lives.

5. Psalm 141:2. *“May the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.”*  
The last two verses of the song deal with sacrificing ourselves to the Lord:

So I stand, with arms high and heart abandoned, in awe of the One who gave it all. I stand my soul Lord to You surrendered. All I am is Yours.+

These lyrics are about the posture of our heart in relation to what God has done for us. Because we are in awe of Jesus' death and resurrection, we leave everything at his feet. This song is not about needing to raise your hands in worship. The lifting of our hands is a posture that reflects a focus on the Lord and not ourselves. We cannot always have our hands raised. We can, however, live our lives in surrender constantly. We can declare the name of Jesus and submit ourselves to Him.

**Enough---** Read in 2 Corinthians 12:9 about Paul's Thorn and God's Grace: Here's a prayer: *three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me.* Here's a prayer: *We know that you hear our cries for help and healing. We trust you with our sufferings. Help us to understand your great compassion, even when you choose to let us remain broken. Teach us through our weaknesses to lean on your strength. Give us grace as you keep us humble so that Christ's power may rest on us.*

**SEE YOU IN WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY! BRING A FRIEND!**