**Sunday, August 7, 2011**

**Welcome** - Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – Sing and Make Music In Your Hearts *(Source: The Open Sourcebook)*

When we gather on Sundays, we have a unique opportunity. We’re not just here to listen to songs and listen to a sermon, but to be an active participant. Ephesians 5:19-20 says this:

*Sing to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Make it your goal today to sing out and take part, to be an encouragement to those around you. Stand with me, and join me in asking the Lord to bless our time together.

**Lord, we want to see your power and your mercy.
We ask that you would open our eyes and ears,
so that by your grace we could run to your promises
and see your glory as we worship now and always. Amen.**

**Song of Praise** – Standing on the Promises

**Prayer of Confession** – Psalm 36 *(Source: The Open Sourcebook)*

 Our God speaks to us in 2 Kings 17:38 and says:

*Do not forget the covenant I made with you.*

But how quick are we to forget? Like Israel before us, we forget how God has rescued us, we forget the grace and mercy we’ve been given, and we forget the pain and shame of our sins. God’s grace is sufficient to carry us even through our forgetfulness, and allows us to walk again and again in repentance. Let’s confess this together:

**Why should we, mere humans, complain when we are punished and suffer for our sins?
Instead, let’s take a serious look at how we’re living,
and seeing our darkness, let’s repent and turn back to the Lord.**
(Based on [Lamentations 3:39-40](http://biblegateway.com/bible?version=31&passage=Lamentations+3%3A39-40))

Let’s silently confess our sins together.

 **Song of Praise** – Open the Eyes of My Heart

**Words of Assurance** – Seeing God Face To Face *(Source: The Open Sourcebook)*

As good as God’s gifts in this life are, we can look with hope to the much greater joy that will come when we see him face to face. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:12:

*Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

And as John tells us in his vision of the future:

Revelation 21:3-5

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

Let’s say it together:
**Amen! Come Lord Jesus!**

**Song of Worship** – Come Thou Fount; In His Presence/Holy Ground

**Offering – I Surrender All**

**\*The Sealing of the Spirit** - Charles H. Spurgeon (Excerpt from a sermon delivered on March 19, 1876 at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington) (Please see excerpt below.)

**Songs of Worship** – The Solid Rock; In Christ Alone

**Message** - "*Who Is God*"; Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 6:13-16

 “**Take-Away’s”**

1. How a person lives reflects what he really believes about God.
2. Who is God?
Is He sinful, non-committed, non-powerful? Let’s stop living on the level of personal impressions, hunches and gut reaction about God. Let’s go to the source, **His word**, and ask Him to reveal Himself to us.
3. Let’s do an inventory – continually!
How are you doing? How’s your time with Him? Where do you give your best? How is your commitment? What do you read, listen to, watch, go to, & participate in? How are you doing with the things He loves, such as His church?
**The chief end of man is to love God and enjoy Him forever. God’s glory is the passion of Him and should be our passion, as well.**

**Song of our Response** – This the Power of the Cross

\*The Sealing of the Spirit -  Sermon excerpt from Charles H. Spurgeon

 I have frequently been asked this question, “What is a person to do who does believe in Jesus, but yet is not conscious of peace and joy, but is filled with such a conflict within that the utmost he can do is to cling to Jesus with trembling hope?” I have replied, “If you believe in Jesus Christ you are saved; the best evidence that you are saved lies in the assurance of the word of God that every believer has eternal hope.” Whether you feel that you are justified or not is not the point, you are to accept. God’s word, which assures you that every one that believeth is justified: you are bound to believe the testimony of God apart from the supporting evidence of inward experience, and if it were possible for you to be a believer by the year together, and yet to find no peace, still you would have no right to doubt what God says because you do not feel peace, but you are bound to hold on to God’s promise whether you enjoy peace or not.

My firm belief is that where there is a real faith in the promise of God, peace and the other fruits of the Spirit come as a necessary ultimate consequence, but even then they are not grounds of faith**: the word of the Lord is the sole foundation upon which faith builds.** Some people have a sort of confidence in God, but they are also looking out for confirming signs, and they spoil the simplicity of their faith by having one eye on Christ and another eye on their peace of mind. Now, my friend, this will never do. You are bound to believe in God as he is revealed in Christ Jesus unto salvation, altogether apart from peace, joy, or anything else. The witness of the Spirit within is not the ground nor the cause of our faith: faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

I, being a sinner, believe that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and I rest my soul upon him, believing that he will save me; this is to be my standing, seal or no seal, token or no token. My dependence is not to be upon the seal of the Spirit, but upon the blood of the Son. The Spirit of God never takes the place of the Redeemer, he exercises his own peculiar office, which is to take of the things of Christ and show them unto us, and not to put his own things in the place of Jesus. The foundation of our hope is laid in Christ from first to last, and if we rest there we are saved. The seal does not always come with faith, but it follows after. I have said this because I am afraid lest in any way whatever you should leave the simple, plain, and solid ground of confidence in the finished work of Jesus Christ, and in that only. Recollect that a man who believes in Jesus Christ is as truly saved when he does not know it as he is when he does know it; he is as truly the Lord’s when he mourns in the valley of humiliation as when he sings on the mountain top of joy and fellowship.

**Our ground of trust is not to be found in our experience, but in the person and work of our Lord Jesus.**

“I dare not trust the sweetest frame;
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name:
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand.”