

Sisters and Brothers, we walk with the Lord together.

02/28/2021

Covenant Life

- This week several of us from CCGD were able to attend the Charismatic Leadership Fellowship (CLF) and North American Network (NAN) meetings in Augusta. Attending with Laurie and I were Neil Coward, my dad, John Wagner, Chase, Laura, and Juliette Dorsey. Over the coming weeks we will communicate more from the week but in the meantime, you are invited to review the newsletter and recording on the NAN website: www.NANCCC.org
- We rejoice that many of our members have been able to receive the covid vaccine and with the improving covid situation the coordinators are discerning a date for an in-person Community Gathering. If you are willing to help, please let us know.
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222

Reflection - One of the highlights of the Charismatic Leaders Fellowship conference was a story attributed to John Wimber that compared the people of God to soup and flowers 😊. While we might love potato soup, how much more delicious is vegetable soup. While we might love a rose, how much more beautiful is a bouquet of flowers. Our viewpoints are, by definition, views from a point. How much richer is life with the gathering of all of God's people? Maybe I am trying to make a better and better potato soup when God is asking me to make vegetable soup.

We know that God is coming back for one bride and Jesus prayed that we would be one (John 17: 20-21) so how do I adjust my priorities, my time...to do my part to be one? The first step could be valuing unity through diversity. Seeing the places where I am trying to make a better potato soup rather than what God is asking of me. We all have a role to play in loving one another, those of other faiths, cultures..., so that our love is visible and a witness of God's bountiful love for all His people.

The Lord has really been speaking to me about Act chapter 10 and I ask you to consider reading and reflecting on it. There is no doubt that God courted the

Israelites to reveal Himself. But God wants all of His children to return to Him, so He explains in this chapter that He does not play favorites or show partiality. One of my favorite verses is 44 where the Holy Spirit falls spontaneously on those who were listening to Peter. Not just because it was the perfect way to prove to the early disciples that God was calling Jew and Gentile but because it reveals an important lesson that is that we cannot control the Spirit. It is our job to say yes, to be a vessel, to be the hands and voice that God can use but the rest is up to Him. We must not be surprised that the Spirit is at work in ways we can hardly imagine and should not try to control.

The NAN conference was also a tremendous blessing for many reasons. The emphasis was on growing deep strong roots to weather the current and future storms of life. One deep root needs to be our personal relationship with Jesus and our spiritual growth in Him. Another deep root needs to be ties to our communities and our interconnected lives of mutual love and support.

We spent a full day of the conference understanding our responsibilities to activate and impart the Spiritual Gifts to one another. It makes no sense to go into life's battles leaving the power of God in our closet. He loves us, calls us into relationship, reveals Himself, and wants to send us out to witness for Him. He equips us for this endeavor, but we must have the courage to call upon Him and the faith to know that He will act so that He can be made manifest.

Just as Abraham was put to a test in the first reading today, God may be testing you and me. Asking if we will respond to His call and do what we are being asked even if we do not understand it. Maybe we have heard the expression 'Obedience precedes understanding'. Peter, Cornelius, Abraham, all needed to say Yes and obey before they understood what God was about. Is God asking us to do something and we just need to say Yes even if we don't fully understand it? If we have any hesitation, we have the assurance in the second reading "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*" (Rom 8:31).

Let us pray *"Heavenly Father, if I have ever done or said anything that has caused hurt in another, I am sorry. Give me a heart for unity, a heart that honors all of*

Your children. Give me the strength to repair any relationships that need mending. I also repent of the times I have done things my own way and not been attune to Your Holy Spirit. Give me the fortitude to just say yes to You and not give excuses for doing things my way. It is my desire to be Your witness and I rededicate myself to You. Pour out Your Gifts upon me and the courage to use them, all day, every day. Amen."

God bless,

David