

Sisters and Brothers, may we trust in God for everything.

Covenant Life

- If you missed the very blessed Celebration of Life for Patrick Powers, we will try to make some material available.
- The coordinators are discerning and planning our first Gathering back, if you are willing to help please contact your area coordinator or reply to this email.
- Our safe environment training is available online this year. Details can be found at the Safe Environment Recertification link in the Covenant Life section.
- Please join your Area's online events and contact your Area Coordinator if you need information or assistance.
- Please donate online at www.GodsDelight.org or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Reflection - Wikipedia defines coincidence as "A remarkable concurrence of events or circumstances that have no apparent causal connection with one another." I like that they add the word remarkable. I suppose without the gift of the Holy Spirit we could attribute all the coincidences around us to random events. No so, for us as believers. A number of us in the North Area are enjoying Jeff Cavin's *The Bible Timeline* bible study together. I recommend it for all small groups. We are on The Return from exile and the first question this week has us read Isaiah 45:1-6 which *coincidentally* is also the first reading.

When such *coincidences* occur, it is time to pause and ask the Holy Spirit "What are you trying to say?" Reading and reflecting on this passage we hear God say clearly "I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by name." And "I am the LORD, there is no other, there is no God besides me." It is clear to me that God is trying to get my attention, our attention, and reaffirm His covenant. He has called each of us by name to be His people. He is God and God alone, and we are to put Him first and foremost in all aspects of our lives.

I spent some time reflecting today on the ways that I let other things take the first place in my life. I encourage you to join me this week in reading and

reflecting on Isaiah 45 and meditating on God's covenant and our response. Do we put Him as God alone over every area of our lives? Are we holding back, not letting go, not following the inner prompting of the Holy Spirit?

It is hard to let go and put God first and trust Him for everything. There is so much evil in our world and traumas abound. But Isaiah's message is to surrender to God and let Him do it for us. Much of the Old Testament with all the journeys of the Israelites can be summed up with the first commandment "I am God there is no other God". We are still learning this today. God has made a covenant with us, He is our God and we are to be His people and love and trust Him alone.

The coming weeks are likely to be trying times. All forms of media are shouting ever louder. Polarization appears stronger than ever. Many close to us are suffering. How are we to respond?

"I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by name. I am the LORD, there is no other, there is no God besides me."

My encouragement is to read His word...especially the psalms and the promises. Be still and know that I am God, do not trust in mortal men in whom there is no salvation, fear not, stand your ground, the Lord will fight for you, do not fear or loose heart, stand firm, God will have the victory, do not loose heart...

Sisters and Brothers, we are in covenant with the King of the Universe and we have one another to encourage us on our journey back to Him. Let us look past the noise of the world and fix our eyes on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and love and support one another as we journey home together.

Let us pray: "Lord God, you know my deepest fears and concerns. You know the pain and suffering that I carry every day. Right now, I surrender. I release all the pain and suffering and everything I am holding on to and give it all to you. Take care of it. I release the fear I have for our country and its leaders. Take care of it. I release the burden I carry for my children and grandchildren. Take care of them. I release the worry I have about the future. Take care of it. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit I surrender myself to you, take care of everything."

God bless,
David