

Sisters and Brothers, our soul is thirsting for you, O Lord our God.

Covenant Life

- We will have our Community Gathering next Sunday, November 15th, at 4pm in the MSM gym. We will follow all CDC guidelines and other specific details were sent this past week in a separate email.
- We have received several significant Word Gifts recently that you are able to read and discern [here](#).
- We have started our 2021 Promise Drive. A letter was sent this weekend and you can submit your inputs online this year [here](#).
- Highlights from the Celebration of Life for Patrick Powers are loaded [here](#).
- Safe environment training is available online this year [here](#).
- 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 - As a confession I must admit that some of what I read in the bible does not match well with the image of God that I have created. Some of the Old Testament stories, particularly of the wrath of God and Israel during battles is hard to fit my view of God. I also struggle with some of Jesus' words especially in a few of the parables. The Gospel today contains an example. Why wouldn't the virgins with extra oil share with those who had none? Why did the Lord say "I do not know you" to the virgins who were late? (Math 25:12)

After some wrestling with this verse I have but one insight to share. Our awesome loving Father, who only wants the very best for us and loves us with overflowing unconditional love...is serious about our response to His offer. He stands at the door of our heart, knocking, sometimes whispering, sometimes pounding, but always there revealing His love in so many ways. But, His offer of love is not a timeless offer. We are 'on the clock'. There is a time limit. We have only the *brief* time of our lives to decide our response to His offer.

The parable is seemingly harsh, but Jesus was trying to convey a Very important point. We must stay awake and be prepared for we know neither the day nor the hour. What does it mean to stay awake and prepared?

I am sure there are many answers to this question and I leave it to each of us to go before our Lord and seek His revelation and a specific answer, but I will suggest one specific answer. Communication.

We can fool ourselves very easily into thinking we are ok, that our relationship with God is fine, that we have plenty of time left to get right with God. We can convince ourselves very easily that the urgent demands of work, family, to-do's... need to be taken care of before we pray...but do they?

Sisters and Brothers, our Heavenly Father is aching in His love for us, earnestly reaching out to us...but we not only must say Yes but *stay awake and prepare*. We do this first and foremost by surrendering to Him unconditionally, putting Him first in our lives, and investing time in the relationship. Communication is essential. Staying awake and being prepared necessitates quality time in prayer. Daily and as often as we can each day setting aside first fruit of time to read His Word, meditating on its meaning for us, listening to the Holy Spirit personalize it, and acting upon it. I offer to you that this is what it means to respond to Jesus' words that we must Stay Awake and Prepare.

My beloved wife who reviews these letters before I send them reminded me that Jesus uses these same words to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. To us, His disciples, He asks us to pray and keep watch with Him.

The virus has impacted nearly every area of our life. But the virus, nor any other external situation (election, health...) can separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:31-39). We know this to be true, yet life happens. Today, Jesus' is pleading with us that our time is limited.

Let us today recommit to surrendering to our Lord, prioritizing this relationship, and say Yes to His request to pray and keep watch with Him. Let us invest our

time in the necessary regular prayerful communication that is required to stay awake and prepare for the day we see Him face to face.

Let us pray: "Heavenly Father, I am sincerely sorry for the times I have prioritized myself and other things over You. Reveal to me what I put before You and give me Your Holy Spirit to empower my surrender to You. Today, I humble myself, I turn from my wicked ways, and I rededicate my life to You and to put You at the very center of my life. I recommit to spending time with You every day, quality time to build and develop our relationship. As I cry out to You, speak to me, let me hear Your voice, and allow me to experience Your love. I love You, I surrender myself to You and trust You for everything."

God bless,

David