Sisters and Brothers, may we be the good seed that produces good fruit regardless of our circumstances.

<u>Our Gatherings</u> - We are continuing to take a cautious stance regarding restarting our Sunday Gatherings due to the elevated risk on COVID-19 in the DFW area. As the Coordinators discern a change we will communicate this via email, our <u>website</u> and our <u>Facebook page</u>.

<u>Living our Covenant</u> - It seems week after week the desire to come together grows. We are a covenant people who have gathering every week for about 50 years. It is so hard not to being coming together to worship our Lord together.

As I was mowing the grass yesterday I was listening to Christian music and heard the song <u>Our God</u>. The words speak a strong message of confidence in Our God. This song and its message seem particularly applicable to us currently as the pandemic drags on and our desire to be there for one another increases.

Our God is greater, our God is stronger God You are higher than any other Our God is Healer, awesome in power Our God, Our God

And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us? And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?

Let us redouble efforts to have full faith and confidence in **Our God** and continue reaching out to one another to stay connected in socially safe ways.

Please take advantage of the resources on our website <u>www.GodsDelight.org</u> including the many links to other great resources available online.

Please continue sharing the Spiritual Gifts with one another and with the Coordinators and please let us know if you have needs that are not being met that your covenant brothers and sisters can help with. Please continue to donate online at <u>www.GodsDelight.org</u> or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222 as we are dependent on your generosity to meet our ongoing financial needs.

<u>Reflection</u> - In praying and reflecting on the readings today I was struck by Jesus' reference to the calling of Isaiah. The haunting words: "You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see." (Math 13:14b) It saddens me to think about so many well-meaning people in our day given the opportunity to hear that Word of God but failing to understand...to see and experience His handiwork all around us but not recognizing Him. As I reflected on this my heart ached. I share this to challenge myself and again challenge each of my covenant sisters and brothers to recommit to sharing everything, our time, our talents, our treasures, our effort...to make Him known. Clearly it is more challenging during these times but let us each find little ways each day to be safe and be a witness. To safely love the person we are with, the person on the other end of our phone, the person that God brings to our mind.

Pondering the parable of the sower, I found myself focusing on the times I felt like I landed on the path, or in rocky soil, or amongst the thorns and lamented. It was then that I think the Holy Spirit turned the light on and I realized that I am So blessed. He replayed for me the first calling upon my life and all the stories from my testimony and assured me that I was in fact planted in fertile soil.

Sisters and Brothers, we are among the most blessed people on earth. While some are carried away by the evil one, we know God is Alive! His words are not a historical story but a living word, alive today. We are so very blessed to know Him and love Him and serve a living God!

While some are distracted by the signs of the times and may abandon Him during times of trial and tribulation, we are a people who stand on His promises! We have been formed on His Word and we are doers of His Word. We know Our God is stronger than any trial, tribulation, pandemic...that the world or evil one might throw at us!

While some might be choked off by the allure of the world, by the temptations of power, prestige, and possessions, we have His eyes to see and His ears to hear the truth. Just as Jesus stood on the Word of God to face satan so too can we stand on His Word to see beyond the allures of the world and commit our lives to Trusting God, Obeying Him, and Surrendering our wills to His. This is the key to growing and prospering in the rich soil of His presence.

Let us pray together "Heavenly Father, I know I have been planted in rich soil. I repent of the choices I have made where I have lived as if I was on the path, on the rocks, or amongst the thorns. I claim the rich soil that you have planted me in. I recommit to a life of trust and obedience to You...to a life totally surrendered to Your perfect will. Thank you for the calling you placed on my life and for the covenant sisters and brothers that you called me to journey to You with. Amen." God bless.

David