

Sisters and Brothers, may we have the courage to always speak up for Christ.

Living our Covenant - Living our Covenant is saying Yes to God every day...thanking Him, praising Him, worshiping Him... This is captured well in the responsorial psalm today so let's pray this together, *"I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple. I will give thanks to your name, because of your kindness and your truth: When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me. The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. Your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands."*

Living our covenant is also saying Yes to our covenant Sisters and Brothers. Let us continue to be there for one another, encouraging and supporting one another as best we can amidst this virus. Your covenant brothers and sisters are here for you, please reach out if you have any needs or just need someone to talk to. Please continue sharing the Spiritual Gifts with one another and with the Coordinators. Please reach out to your Area coordinator or me if you have unmet needs that your covenant sisters and brothers can help with. And please donate online at www.GodsDelight.org or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222 as we are dependent on your generosity for our ongoing financial needs.

Pray Dallas Day - Last Wednesday was a day to pray for our city and the eradication of the virus. Many other cities in the Dallas area joined Dallas in proclaiming that day as a day of prayer and fasting. Many organizations around the world joined in. Prayer is the answer to this virus and all our challenges. During the noon hour on Wednesday a diverse group of ecumenical leaders gathered at the Episcopal Cathedral in Dallas to pray together. Laurie and I participated and were blessed by our time praying with this dedicated group of intercessors. If you would like to see the video it can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=690093394910281>

Reflection - To live our covenant is to *"desire to put our lives into His hands completely and follow Him as a people wherever He may lead."* These are the

words that each of us proclaimed when we made our covenant with God and our Sisters and Brothers of CCGD. It is interesting that the covenant uses the word 'desire'. That is all that God is really asking of us. Not to be perfect but to desire Him, to be willing to repent of our failures and try again...day by day...hour by hour.

This is what struck me about the Gospel message today. Jesus knew His ministry on earth was coming to an end and He commissioned Peter to build His church upon. The bible shares many stories of Peter's failures and challenges, yet Jesus chose him. Not because he was particularly educated, wise, resourceful, popular...but because he had the courage to speak up in faith and proclaim the truth of what he recognized in Jesus.

The story of Peter's denial of Jesus and the mercy that Jesus showed Peter after His resurrection is a critical principle for all of us. While we were challenged to *be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect*, God knows well that we need continuous opportunities to begin again. It is about the journey, failing, repenting, and receiving God's mercy.

A second key point in this Gospel is the truth that God works through the willing, not the most popular, resourceful, educated. The old testament is filled with stories of God showing the Israelites that it was not through their power that they were saved but through God's power. He did not need their numbers but their surrender. The same principle is at work in Peter. Jesus was able to work through Peter through his faith and surrender.

Jesus wants to shine through us just as He shone through Peter. He is not calling us because of our talent or resources but because of our faith and surrender. He gives us His mercy to release us from our past and only asks that we have faith in Him and say Yes over and over. In the same way that the early Church was not built by Peter and his human talents and resources, so it is today. The Church today is not built by our talents and resources but by our surrender and the power of God working in and through us. Let us individually and collectively repent of what holds us back, receive His mercy, rededicate ourselves to Him, express our

faith in Him, surrender to His will, and have the courage to speak out, in word and deed, to proclaim Him our Lord and Savior to everyone we come into contact with.

Let us pray, "Lord forgive us our failures, give us Your mercy and wash us clean. Pour forth the gifts of faith and hope upon us that we will realize that is it not by our power and strength that we stand but by Your love and mercy. Work in and through us and give us Your power to persevere, to serve, to love, to proclaim Your Faith, Hope and Love to everyone. It is our ardent desire to demonstrate the courage of Peter, to proclaim You the Christ, and to live for You." Amen.

God bless,
David