

Sisters and Brothers, may we always see as through God's eyes and live for Him.

Living our Covenant - We are a people of Praise and Worship. We live in uncertain times. It is no wonder that the psalms, David's hymns of Praise and Thanksgiving are so meaningful for us. *"My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you. Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me."* Living our covenant is truly gazing upon our Lord, seeing His glory and power. Our calling, as was David's, is to glorify our God, to bless Him, to lift up our hands and call upon His name, to praise Him and shout for Joy.

The second part of living our covenant is being there for one another, loving as He first loved us. We are here for one another. 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. 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.

Reflection - The second reading today from Romans (12:1-2) has always been one of my favorite scriptures. It begins a chapter on the duties of Christians by explaining the need to sacrifice our body and minds. Reading and reflecting on this scripture this morning I was convicted. The call to *"offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship"* seems so foreign. Our consumer culture has made this so much more challenging. Everything in our world today shouts 'me'. What is in it for me? But our call as Christians is to look beyond our circumstances toward the King of the Universe. To see Jesus' example

of what it means to lay down our lives for one another without fear but rather with love, love empowered by the grace of His Holy Spirit.

The exhortation continues *"Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."* These are easy words to read but tough words to live by. Again, our culture battles against us. The power of this age seems to get stronger and louder by the day. The culture's message is coming to us through channels that did not even exist a few years ago. But God's Word is true, lasting, and pure. If we allow it to renew our minds, we will be able to hear Him and discern His will and know what is good, pleasing, and perfect. That is what is asked of us and we have the comfort of knowing that we are not alone. We are powered by His Holy Spirit and we have the support of one another.

One day, each of us as covenant sisters and brothers, declared our covenant. We made an oath to God and one another to stand for Him and journey together. Our calling is not to succumb to this age but to recommit, day after day to live for Him, to be active in His Word, to be intentional in our daily responsibilities, to discern His Will and our response, to study and live our covenant out to the best of our abilities. This is our witness; this is the witness of covenant community...may our culture see us and turn to our Lord and surrender...body and mind.

Let us pray, *"Lord, we repent of the times we have given in to this age and not lived for you. We repent of the times we have put our needs before the needs of others. We want to live for You. We desire to sacrifice ourselves, body and mind, to You and to living for You. Heal our land, heal our culture, change this age, and do it through our Yes. We love You." Amen.*

God bless,
David