

50th JUBILEE 9-WEEK NOVENA: WEEK 8

NOVENA REFLECTION: Let us prepare ourselves to fully participate in the 50th Jubilee of the founding of our Covenant Community by asking “what is a Jubilee?” For ancient Israel, it was a time to restore the land to its owners, to proclaim liberty to those enslaved; it was a sacred year to enter into God’s rest and liberation as a people.

Lev. 25:10 “You shall treat this fiftieth year as sacred. You shall proclaim liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to your own property, each of you to your own family”. NABRE

We too are invited to enter into deeper freedom and restoration this Jubilee year. When we approach it prayerfully, the Holy Spirit will guide each of us concerning what to release and what to restore. This can be a beautiful year of remembering the call of God to us individually and as a people, and with great gratitude reflecting on what he has done among us. **The themes chosen for each week’s Novena should be considered both vertically (God and you, God and us), and horizontally (person to person, person to CCGD).**

These are a few of the questions we can ask ourselves as we ponder and pray over how any theme relates to us.

- Am I obedient to God in this area? How is He calling me to change?
- What does God desire to restore in my life?
- What action is He calling me to take?

WEEK 8: WITNESS



GOD’S CALL THROUGH SCRIPTURE:

Acts 1:8 *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down on you; then you are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, yes, even to the ends of the earth.*

Mt 10:7-8 *As you go, proclaim that the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those suffering from virulent skin diseases, drive out devils. You have received without charge, give without charge.*

Mt 9:37-38 *Then he said to his disciples: “The harvest is rich, but the laborers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers to his harvest.*

MEDITATION:

- We are called to share the gospel with others and by our lives be a witness of God’s love to everyone. We are given this mission by our Lord and shown throughout scripture how this is accomplished. We may have come into our Covenant relationship recently or it may be years or decades ago. As stated in our Covenant response “Above all, **we desire** to be a people who always **grow** by His great mercy **in the fervor of that first love** He has given to us...” Fervor is defined as “intense and passionate feelings.” As a Community how is our fervor growing? As an individual how is your fervor growing? Are you a blazing fire, lukewarm, or just an individual ember?
- Think who first introduced you to Community. What approach did they use? What if they had never invited you? When you were Baptized in the Spirit how was your life changed – prayer, scripture reading, service, witnessing, joy, commitment? How did the Lord use you and your gifts to gather in the harvest?
- How are you using your gifts today to share the gospel with others and be a witness of God’s love to everyone? How is the Lord using you today to gather in His harvest? Are you open to His promptings?

PRAYER: (Continue with your own prayer)

Jesus, you have blessed us so abundantly calling us “Your Delight”. You have given us a name, gathered us together to be your people, joined together as brothers and sisters, to accomplish your mission to love and serve each other and spread your Kingdom throughout the world. We ask that you send upon us the Fire of your Holy Spirit to reawaken our sleepy spirits and renew in us the fervor of our first love. Set our hearts ablaze once again as we witness in your power, love, signs and wonders, to gather in your harvest.

ACTION: Be open to being a witness for the Lord. Each day ask the Lord to put someone in your path that He would like you to witness to and that you be given the wisdom/courage/words/action(s) needed to respond.