

Sisters and Brothers, let us be in the world but not of the world. 01/29/2023

Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Gathering is in two weeks on Sunday February 12th at 3pm continuing the pattern of meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.
- Click [HERE](#) to RSVP for our Golden Jubilee Celebration on March 25-26 at MSM and to order new CCGD Logo shirts (orders must be placed by Feb 12th to ensure delivery before the event).
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) and the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.
- **NOVENA:** We are preparing for our 50th anniversary with a **nine-week novena** to pray, meditate, discern what God is asking of us going forward. Please spend quality time each day praying and meditating, especially attentive to prophetic words. Beg the Lord to reveal His plan for us in this time. How is God asking the Community to respond? How is He asking me to respond and support the Community's Yes?

To focus our prayer and guide it we are providing a specific topic each week and this week's topic is LIFE IN THE SPIRIT. The attached meditation provides questions, scriptures, and prayers to review, reflect, pray, and meditate upon. Please take time today and every day this week to join with your covenant sisters and brothers in asking our Lord to reveal Himself to us, to speak to us, and to make His Will known to us.

Consider printing a few extra copies and take them with you to visit someone that you know who does not have a printer or email so that we can be united in coming before the Lord in this critical time of hearing and responding to our Lord. And please continue prayers for our Jubilee team.

Life in the Spirit or life in the world?

This was the question that kept coming to me as I read this week's meditation topic and reflecting on the readings today. Am I living in His Spirit or am I focused on my wants and needs? The life God calls us to is SO very different than what the world advances. Details of this are clearly spelled out in the readings today.

The words that jump off the page in the [First Reading](#) are *humble* and *lowly*. I suspect you will not hear these words characterize what the world projects as characteristics to be developed but they are central to the message of this exhortation.

Similarly, the [Responsorial Psalm](#) chants 'blessed are the *poor in spirit*', when was the last time the world publicly advocated being poor in spirit? The rest of Psalm 146 explains the promises the Lord makes to those who follow this path.

Continuing, the [Second Reading](#) reminds us that God chose the *foolish, weak, and lowly* to reduce the world to nothing and ensure that we only boast in Him.

Finally, the [Gospel](#) presents the familiar Beatitudes that shine attention on the *poor in spirit, mourners, meek, righteous, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers, and the persecuted*. Again, these are not popular attributes in our world today.

So, what are we to conclude by the stark contrast presented in these readings? I asked myself the questions in the meditation concerning what I might be asked to release? What might I be asked to restore? It prompted questions about how comfortable I am living in the world today. Have I so structured my surroundings as to minimize challenges, minimize pain and discomfort, minimize interactions with those unfamiliar to me? Have I created a shell or bubble?

Being honest...am I humble, lowly, poor in spirit, foolish, weak, lowly, meek, righteous, merciful, clean of heart? Am I a mourner, a peacemaker, persecuted? Can I be honest with myself and say that I seek these things, or have I insulated myself?

God called me and you into a Life in the Spirit to live according to His will and precepts and explained to us how different these are from those of the world. Have I, have we grown slack in living His *Life in the Spirit*?

I recall the passion and zeal of our first love, we were so hungry and telling everyone we met how excited we were about meeting Jesus, encountering Him in

His word, and how the Holy Spirit was alive and well and His gifts were for everyone.

Our jubilee preparations are about rekindling this passion and dedicating ourselves to living Life in His Spirit. Let us join together in saying Yes.

"Heavenly Father, please look beyond my recent actions and pour out an abundance of Your Holy Spirit that I might be set ablaze with the fire and passion of my first Yes to You. I recommit to spending quality time with You each day and ordering my day according to Your perfect Will. Give me a hunger for souls that I will share You with those I meet today and witness how much You love them by the way I love and care for them. I love You Lord and have come to do Your will!"

God Bless,
David