

Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering will be in two weeks on May 28th → Pentecost!
 - Our Pentecost Gathering is always a special prayer meeting where we have an extended period of Praise and Worship and have an extended time to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all who attend!
 - *Following our Pentecost Gathering we will have a **Meet and Greet** for new families or anyone who would like to hear more about the Charismatic Renewal or Covenant Community. We will provide dinner and childcare. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested.*
- Visit our [Jubilee web page](#) to enjoy content from our 50th Anniversary!
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), 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.

First allow me to honor our mothers, those who have gone to their eternal reward and those who are still loving and serving us! Thank you for the gift you are and the witness of your unconditional love that models the Father's love for us!

The readings today are packed with so many messages. What a blessing that the Church provides us this material for our prayer and reflection.

As a Charismatic, I was particularly touched by several of the passages: First, the [Responsorial Psalm](#) exhorts us to "*Cry out to God with joy, shout joyfully to God, sing praise to the glory of his name, and proclaim his glorious praise.*" It is hard to describe the inner peace and joy that comes from the total surrender of joyfully praising and worshiping God. It is peculiar to me that what seems to turn many people off from Charismatics (praying out loud) is exactly what seems to bring such inner peace and joy. Yes, it takes a letting go, a surrender, and not caring about what others think...but after getting the courage to praise the Lord, to shout for Him, to see and proclaim His glorious praise...Wow, that inner peace and joy erupts, and we know THIS is what we were created to do!

Secondly, we as charismatics are not surprised to hear in the [First Reading](#) that the early Christians sent a second wave of evangelists to pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We see daily what is possible when we live and act in the power of the Holy Spirit. What is accomplished through our surrender and His power is SO much more than we can make happen of our own accord! Praise God!

The [Gospel](#) then prepares us for the building excitement of the coming of the Holy Spirit which we will celebrate in two weeks. Jesus, in His own words, promises the Holy Spirit but clearly explains the requirement to love Him and keep His commandments! John repeats these words twice in this passage likely trying to capture the emphasis that Jesus placed upon it. So let us take these words to heart and conform our lives to His words and commandments and recommit ourselves every day to growing in our love for Him!

I am compelled to end with Peter's exhortation in the [Second Reading](#). Nancy Ward in her book, Joe and Kathy Walshe in their testimonies at our prayer meetings...have all encourages us to "*Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.*" Our founder Bobbie Cavnar repeatedly said our witness was our love for one another. While this is still true, we need to be so in love with our Lord, so in love with one another, that we never let an opportunity pass to share our reason for hope, our reason for joy, our reason for praise, our reason for worship, our reason for exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit! We are SO blessed, let us never pass on an opportunity and recall Fr. John's five-word exhortation "May I pray with you?".

Let us pray, "*Holy Spirit, come into my life in a new and powerful way today. I give myself totally and completely to You. I ask that you fill every crevice of my being with love, joy, peace, praise, and worship! Allow me to magnify the Father in my unconditional love. Allow me to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. Give me the courage to share my great joy with everyone I meet. I love You Lord and totally surrender to You!*"

God Bless,

David