

### **Covenant Life**

- It was wonderful to see everyone at the gathering this afternoon. Our next prayer meeting is September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3 PM. We will have Children's and Youth Ministries during the prayer meeting. Formation teachings remain on hold while we discern the next series. You can learn more about these ministries on our [WEBSITE](#).
- All adults working in ministries of the community are required to be safe environment trained and must update that training annually. The annual **SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING** update will be offered before and after the next two prayer meetings (September 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup>), more information to follow.
- 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.

### **Reflection**     *(September 8<sup>th</sup> Readings: Is 35:4-7a; Psalm 146: 6-10; James 2: 1-5; Mark 7: 31-37)*

Is 35 instructs us to "Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!" and promises that the Lord is coming to save us by healing our blindness, our deafness, our lameness, and our muteness. This healing will cause springs to burst forth in the desert and rivers in the steppes! In Psalm 146, the Lord assures us that God keeps his promises FOREVER!

In the Gospel of Mark, we see that Jesus in the healing of the deaf mute is fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah. He is the one who comes to save us from our fears, our infirmities, our sins and to instill in us a rich faith that we are heirs of His promised kingdom. Like the deaf mute, we cannot hear or speak to Jesus until he heals us. It is through our baptism in water and the Holy Spirit that we are set free to see Jesus with our eyes in all of the miracles large and small that He does for us every day. We are free to hear God speak to us through the scriptures, in our personal prayer, and through the lives and voices of our brothers and sister in Christ. Finally, our mouth is free to praise God with every breath and to proclaim his good news to all the earth.

In my personal life in the Spirit, I continue to experience episodes where I periodically allow the world, my flesh, and the devil to weaken my faith, make God seem far away, and I become agitated or afraid. Then in prayer, the Lord Jesus lovingly comes to me, tenderly holds my face in his hands, looks into my heart and says "Ephphatha!"— that is, "Be opened!" Suddenly the scales fall from my eyes, and I can see Him. The deafness is removed, and I can hear Him. My muteness is released, and I can praise Him. Suddenly, I realize that I am healed! The faith, hope, love, and peace return.

Let us pray, "Oh loving Jesus, speak your command, "Ephphatha!" over me. Heal all of my fears, my tepidness, my blindness to those around me, my deafness to your word, and my muteness in giving testimony to the great things that you have done for me. I receive your healing love and ask your forgiveness for my disobedience and hard heartedness. Let your Word make me new from the inside out and teach me to live in the faith that you have given me. I am yours and you are mine forever. I claim my right as an heir of your kingdom and ask that you bring me safely home at the end of my days, Amen.

Blessings,  
Mike