

## Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting will be a week from today on Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Our plan is to spend our time in Eucharistic Adoration praying in the New Year. We will have the Children's Ministry available so that the young ones will have an alternative.
- The coordinators have requested that everyone pray for a **prophetic word** regarding 2024. Please write what you receive and bring it to Mike Wagner on January 14<sup>th</sup> so that the Coordinators can discern all the words together.
- Community members who have not turned in your 2024 Promise are requested to do so here: [2024 Promise](#).
- [GodsDelight.org](#) content: [Jubilee](#); Prayer Meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), & [teachings](#).
- 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

In learning how to build our relationship with God, teachers have emphasized the eternal nature of God's Word. They explain how God can use His words, inspired by the Holy Spirit, captured by people many years ago, to speak to us today. One of the most fruitful approaches is to place ourselves in the scene. It can be as an observer, one of the various participants, or as the intended audience of the passage.

To get the most out of the exercise we are encouraged to ponder the word, recognizing it as the living Word of God, allowing the Holy Spirit to speak a personal and particular word to us as we reflect. If we are quiet and attentive, we may experience His presence, we may receive some insight, or we may be prompted with some direction regarding His will and how we can cooperate with whatever He is about.

As I read and reflected on the readings today I was led to read the [First Reading](#) as a word addressed not just to Jerusalem, but to us as the [Christian Community of God's Delight](#).

There is so much darkness in our world today. Putting a name on many of the dark clouds that surround us seems easier than at any other time in our lives. However, this is not the intent of this passage. While not denying the reality of our time, I believe the Lord is addressing us as a Community, just as He addressed Jerusalem through the prophet Isaiah, with words of encouragement, and hope, and promise!

"The glory of the Lord shines upon" us and, despite the present darkness, upon us "the LORD shines". Over us "appears his glory". All this has certainly been the case in 2023 as my recent letters have celebrated.

The next words "Nations shall walk by your light" prompted me to recall the early prophecies where the Lord exhorted the early leaders to prepare to teach, that He would lead many people to us and that we needed to be ready to be His light, His witnesses. The Community responded in those days, and I believe He is communicating the same message to us today. The world today appears darker than before which suggests that His light will shine brighter than before.

My exhortation to each member of our Community is to pray and reflect on this passage today and ask the Lord how we are to respond. We cannot ignore what is going on, He is asking us to speak for Him, to be more outwardly focused, to allow our words and action to Be His Light, to Shine His Light, to Proclaim His Light. He does not want a passive response but is asking us to be active in building His Kingdom in North Texas in 2024!

*Let us pray "Heavenly Father, I am humbled by the ways You have blessed me and blessed our Community. I rededicate myself to You, to being a light, a witness, a herald of Your Good News! Give me the courage to always proclaim You by every word I utter and every deed. Show me how to love those You bring into my life so that they will experience Your great love for them. I give myself totally to You and to accomplishing Your perfect will, today and every day! Amen."*

Happy New Year,  
God Bless,  
David