

Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting is **TODAY**, August 25th at 3pm. We plan to have Children's ministry. Formation teachings are on hold while we discern the next series.
- **Youth Ministry** - Our first event for our new Youth Ministry was a big success with over 50 youth participating. The next event will be a Swim Party at the Peterman home on September 7th. Pass the word and contact highschool-ministry@godsdelight.org for details.
- The **National Charismatic Leaders Conference** will be held in St. Paul, MN on October 25-27th - Members of CCGD will be attending and there will be a workshop on Covenant Communities. Early Bird Registration has been extended through September 1st More info at: Pentecosttodayusa.org/hs2024/
- GodsDelight.org has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [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

As I pray each week and ask the Holy Spirit for a specific word for the Community, most often I hear a single thought. Today, reading and praying through the scriptures, there is a bountiful feast of words for us to contemplate.

In the [First Reading](#) we read about Joshua's public and bold declaration that "*as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!*" More than a plague for our front door, the circumstances behind his declaration (having gathered all the leaders of Israel and retelling the ways that God had provided and protected them) show true leadership. Joshua not only reminded everyone of God's love for them but demonstrated courage to go first, to publicly go on record declaring God first in his life. This reminded me of our founding leaders who came together to form our Community when there was little example of how to live radically for God. I noticed the heading for this paragraph in the bible and it was titled "Covenant Ceremony". What a blessing it is for us as a Community to have been formed into a covenant people as God formed Israel through Joshua's leadership. Let us too respond as the Israelites did and continue to live radically and courageously for our God!

Much has been said regarding Paul's words to the Ephesians in the [Second Reading](#). The word subordinate is certainly a charged word. One aspect of these words that is beyond controversy is the words of the call to totally give of ourselves to one another. The exhortation to "*Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ*" rings consistent with Jesus' telling of the second commandment to love one another. Paul's message to husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church sets an incredibly high bar given that Jesus literally gave His life for the Church. His other exhortation to love our wives as we love ourselves, prompts thoughts of how often in a day we, without thought, tend to our own needs to eat, drink, even breathe. Consider the husband, who so loves his wife that he gives his whole life to love and serve her, who considers her before his own constant needs throughout his day. Would a wife being so loved by her husband in this way have any concern about being subordinate to such an empty, loving, selfless soul? Lord, give us the strength to love one another in this way that we can truly be "*Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ*".

The [Gospel](#) today continues John's Bread of Life discourse and ends with Peter's famous proclamation. What strikes me about his words, like Joshua's proclamation in the first reading, is the courage with which Peter speaks out. Imagine yourself hearing these words from Jesus that go so counter to everything you previously understood. Then looking around, you see the crowd who reject the words, mostly turn away. Pondering the words you have just heard you conclude that you can't even understand them. What is one to do? Do we not find ourselves in similar circumstances in trying to understand loved ones who are called home early, or the pain of seeing loved ones suffer, or all the mysteries of life where life unfolds in ways that we do not understand?

Peter provided us the perfect response to our daily challenges "*Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.*" Another perfect response is in the [Responsorial Psalm](#), "*I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the LORD*". Surrender to our Lord, blessing Him at all times, is the perfect remedy to whatever ails us!

Let us pray, "Jesus, thank You for providing the perfect example of love. Your witness and the power of Your Holy Spirit are all that I need to fulfill Your call. You have the words of eternal life for me, and I pledge today to always surrender

to You, to always bless You and glorify You. Send me a double portion of Your Holy Spirit today to empower my Yes. I love You! Amen"

God Bless,

David