Sisters and Brothers, let us love one another.

## Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting will be <u>TODAY</u> at 3pm. Children and Youth ministries plan to meet.
- What a wonderful NAN Conference this past weekend. Hopefully you were able to watch the livestream. If you missed it, it is available here: <u>NAN 2025</u> <u>Conference</u>
- <u>GodsDelight.org</u> has prayer meeting <u>audio</u>, <u>summaries</u>, <u>transcripts</u>, and <u>teachings</u>.
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please enter your 2025 Promise <u>here</u>, donate online <u>here</u>, or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

## **Reflection**

I have always been impressed with the story of David and Saul that is brought to life in the <u>First Reading</u>. When I look back over my life, I have experienced many "*Holy Moments*" where the circumstances indicate divine providence rather than coincidence. Does that mean all coincidences are holy moments...certainly not. But at the same time, we cannot dismiss potential divine interventions as only coincidences. What is needed is discernment.

The first step in discernment is openness to the Holy Spirit. David, coming upon the sleeping Saul, could have immediately concluded, as his companion did, that the circumstances suggest that God was delivering Saul into his hands. David had the wisdom to not act as circumstances would indicate but rather, he discerned that God had a greater plan, a plan that honored God's anointed even though he was in the wrong.

What can we learn from this passage? It is true that God is constantly leading and guiding us and we must see each moment of our day as an interaction with God. What is He asking of me now? And now? And now? The more attuned we are with the presence of God in our lives the more likely we will be able to understand and follow His divine will in our daily lives.

Secondly, we should always pause. I have heard this referred to as "Holy Spirit pauses" where we refrain from our intuitive reactions and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to us and lead and guide us. As Charismatics, this is our superpower. Yes, we act on our skill, knowledge, education, formation...but our superpower is our ability to tap into the power of His Holy Spirit. When we do this our response is turbo charged by the divine. David was able to accomplish God's will in turning the hearts

of the Israelites to God and teach humility and mercy because he had the wisdom to pause and act in accord with his formation and discernment of how to respect God's anointed.

This highlights the importance of our own ongoing formation. Since the early days of our community, we have been a people of ongoing formation. We spend years learning God's Word, we spend years learning what God is calling us to when He called us into a covenant with Him. After we make an underway or full covenant commitment, we agree to a lifetime of ongoing formation to continue to grow in our understanding of how we can, day-by-day, continue to tap into the power of the Holy Spirit and conform our lives to Him and His perfect divine will. He is our all-in-all and we have learned that there is no end to His love and His divine plan for us...but we must never tire of being formed into the disciples He has called us to be!

Let us each individually, and as a community, recommit to ongoing formation so that we will have the wisdom and the deep connection with His Spirit to act as David did, in accord with God's perfect will. Our objective is to not act on our intuition, not solely as the circumstances of life might dictate, but as Jesus taught us, in true accord with the will of our Heavenly Father.

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, I surrender all aspects of my life to You. It is my ardent desire to follow You more and more each day. I need You; I need a double portion of Your Holy Spirit today so that I can discern what Your will is. I desire to have every action throughout my day be in perfect accord with Your will. Help me to distinguish between circumstance and Your perfect will. Give me the courage to always act in accord with Your providential plan. I love You Lord! Amen."

God Bless, David