

Covenant Life

- **TODAY** we will pray in the New Year at 4pm in the MSMCS gym in place of our normal prayer meeting. Masks are encouraged due to the spike in the virus.
- On January 23rd we will continue our pattern of Sunday in-person prayer meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) or 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.

Reflection - While we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord today what caught my attention was that each of the three readings referred to the power of God's Holy Spirit. Each of us, as charismatics, knows the power of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and how He transforms our lives when we say yes and invite Him in.

In the first reading ([Is 42:1-4, 6-7](#)) we hear Isaiah's prophesy detailing the transformative impact of God's Spirit. The person transformed by God's Spirit is called to bring forth justice to the nations. We too, as a covenant Community have heard and responded with this same call. *"I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness"*. Having received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit we are called to be a light for the nations, to call forth healing, to serve those captured by a life of darkness. Let us today ask how we can respond to this call, through the power of His Spirit in a practical way.

In the second reading ([Acts 10:34-38](#)) notice the same point being made by Peter explaining the transformative impact of God's Holy Spirit when Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit: "He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." Peter is communicating that this is the natural response to an anointing of the Holy Spirit. That we are given His Spirit to be active in doing good and using His Spirit to heal and transform the lives of those we encounter. This is the Gospel message. We are not given His

Spirit for our own benefit, we receive His Spirit to give it away and love, serve, witness, heal, and transform the lives of those we encounter.

At the mass I attended last night the priest was trying to explain how to respond to the Gospel ([Lk 3:15-16, 21-22](#)) words of "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." The priest, rightly calling all of us to live as Jesus did following His anointing, attempted to articulate specifics of how to do this. He called us to prayer and love of neighbor but stopped short of calling for the exercise of the spiritual gifts. THIS is the blessing of the Charismatic Renewal. Yes, we are called into an intimate relationship with the triune God through prayer and, yes, we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves through a life of selflessness, But, there is a tremendous power available to aid us if we ask and surrender. This is the testimony of the Charismatic Renewal that, baptized by the Holy Spirit, He will empower our yes, He will open the Word for us to know Him, He will speak directly to us through prophesy, He will give us the grace, power, and spiritual gifts to love, heal, comfort, care for our neighbors.

Let us pray, "Lord, set my life on fire for You. I once again give my life totally to You and invite You to be my Lord and Savior. Take hold of every aspect of my life. Give me Your Holy Spirit in a new way today. I want to follow Jesus' example in fulfilling Isaiah's prophesy. I want to be like Peter and the early disciples who were transformed by Your presence and spent the rest of their lives living for You and telling everyone they could about You and what You did for them. Lord, You know that I cannot do this of my own but can accomplish anything when I surrender and accept Your Holy Spirit. Give me a double portion of Your Spirit today so that I can be an example to everyone I encounter today."

God bless,

David