

## Covenant Life

- **TODAY** is our next in-person Gathering at 4pm. In August and September, we will continue our pattern of meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.
- Recommitting to our [covenant](#) is our 2022 priority and the coordinators are sharing about it. Please take time to listen to the sharings at the bottom of our homepage: [GodsDelight.org](http://GodsDelight.org).
- 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.

Last week's letter focused on the importance of daily prayer inspired by the Gospel story of Mary and Martha. The readings today continue to build on this theme and give us particular insights into aspects of prayer life, the personal relationship that God desires with every one of us.

In the [first reading](#) we hear Abraham pressing God about Sodom and Gomorrah. This is an interesting story of God's chosen pressing God on behalf of a troubled people. It reveals God's desire for relationship, His openness to intervene, His patience in hearing from us, and most importantly His total love for His people.

In the [Responsorial Psalm](#) the verse we respond with are David's words "Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me." The psalms are filled with David's very personal relationship with God. Each Psalm is as if we could listen in on David's personal prayer time. What a beautiful treasure it is to have the psalms and be able to hear the intimacy expressed. Truly this is motivation to persevere in our personal relationship with God.

Finally in the [Gospel](#) we hear Jesus reveal many specifics about our personal relationship with God:

- "Jesus was praying in a certain place" - Jesus taught His disciples by His actions, not just His words. He was God but still took time to pray. If prayer was important for Jesus, if praying was essential in His relationship with the Father, how can it not be an absolute necessity for us?

- One of His disciples has the courage to ask for help "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." First, how blessed are we that this unnamed disciple had the courage to ask. How many billions of times has this prayer been repeated? Secondly, this prayer lays a foundation for us all to start. No matter where we are in our relationship with God...we have a place to start. We can always start with the prayer He taught us and go from there.
- Jesus then makes a very important revelation about prayer in the story of the midnight friend arrival. Prayer is not easy. God usually does not speak to us as another human person but requires us to listen with our heart...hence the story about persistence in prayer. The saints tell us of the 'dark night', we have each had our own highs and lows in our walk with God and in our own relationship of prayer. Today, Jesus reminds us how critical it is to persist, to never give in to discouragement and to press God in prayer, every day, as often as we can every day. He wants to be there for us every minute of every day, but we must invite Him in.
- Jesus ends with the promise "how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" What more could we ask for? The God of the universe has assured us of His love, His desire for us to be in relationship, His desire for us to persist in prayer, and ends with the promise of His Holy Spirit if we ask. Wow.

Sisters and brothers, what a special place we are all in, what a loving Father we have, who promises to be there for us every day. Let us not grow faint but persist in saying Yes!

*Let us pray. "Lord, you know my desire to spend time with You and develop my personal relationship with You. Help me to never hold back, help me to persist, help me to turn to You in good times and bad. I claim the promises You have made and desire to grow closer to you every day through the time we spend together. I love you. Amen."*

God Bless,  
David