

Happy Easter and may our risen savior bless you and be present to you and may He protect your extended family and draw every member into a deeper relationship with Him. May we do our part to bring about His perfect will today and every day!

Covenant Life

- March 21st Gathering - What a delight it was to gather again and praise and worship our Lord together. Over 25 families were able to gather in the gym and safely pray, sing, praise, and worship our Lord. The scriptures shared are located on our home page: www.GodsDelight.org and the audio recording of the Gathering is located [here](#).
- Our next Prayer Meeting will be a week from today on April 11th - Divine Mercy Sunday. We will start the chaplet at 4pm sharp so please arrive a few minutes early.
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - The last two weeks I have been sharing highlights from the North American Network (NAN) conference held late February in Augusta GA. Today I would like to reflect on the second day of the conference and the talks given by Patrick Reis who is a co-founder and executive director of [Encounter Ministries](#). His two talks and a Q&A are available online on the NAN webpage [here](#) and I encourage you to listen to them.

After his personal testimony he explains the mission of Encounter Ministries and the subject of his talks which is to equip Christians to demonstrate the power and love of God through the Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus proclaimed the Good News in word and deed, so too are we to burn with zeal to receive Spiritual Gifts and use them to demonstrate God's love and cooperate with the triune God's desire to bring heaven to earth.

Patrick's message was particular to those of us in the Charismatic Renewal in that he focused on the concept of *Impartation* whereby we are called to be open to God choosing to bestow a Spiritual Gift from us to another person. He cited many

examples throughout scripture whereby God worked through someone to *impart* a gift upon another. He was careful to point out that we must not confuse the one *who delivers the mail* with the *person who sent it*. We are to keep our eyes on the giver of the Gift and not the person who imparted or delivered it.

After explaining that there are multiple ways to impart or receive a Spiritual Gift he emphasized the most important *next step* is to put it into practice. We have heard people say that to retain a foreign language one should continue speaking it...similarly Patrick stressed the importance of putting Spiritual Gifts into regular practice.

Unfortunately, it is easy for us to see the Gifts at work through others and simply conclude that the Gift is for them and not us. Maybe we either believe that we do not have the Gift or simply do not exercise the Gift out of fear that God will not answer our prayer. Patrick quotes many scriptures in building our confidence that God does want to act through us! God desires all His children to come together as His bride and be united with Him. He needs our Yes and the courage of being His *mail persons* to deliver His message of love, healing, peace, and joy to a world lost without Him.

There was a lot more 'education' that took place during the two talks and question and answer time. Patrick explained that this was a very compressed version of the 'school' that they teach on activating, imparting, and practicing the Spiritual Gifts. What was really helpful was the last sessions where the attendees were encouraged to put the lessons into practice. We were challenged to exercise the gifts that the Holy Spirit had already given us. Of course, this was all meant to build our confidence. We need the conviction that God really does need us and through His Holy Spirit has already given us His Gifts. It is up to us to aggressively look for opportunities to pray for one another, to prophesy to one another, and to share words of wisdom for one another. This is the only way that God is going to be able to accomplish His plan in and through us.

Let us pray "*Heavenly Father, I repent for the times I have hesitated to exercise Your gifts either because of fear or shyness. Forgive me and bless me with*

courage and zeal. Give me zeal to possess and use all the Spiritual Gifts that You intend for me. Give me the courage to pray for my sisters and brothers. Give me the fortitude to never pass up an opportunity to minister to another using a prophetic or wisdom gift. I love you and want to always be building Your kingdom. Amen."

God bless,

David