

### Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Prayer Meeting is planned for Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm in the MSM gym.
- We have launched a six-week program, **Let the Fire Fall Challenge**, to help us prepare for Pentecost. Details can be found on our website [here](#). Please prioritize this activity in your day and incorporate it into your family and small group discussions. Our everyday witness is a critical response to God's call. This past week we have been praying about and practicing how to make our everyday witness more desirable and enticing for Him to use. Please share your insights with a person you choose as an accountability person to help you progress. We start the next week of our Challenge tomorrow.
- Our Gathering last Sunday was a true blessing. It was very well attended but still happened in a safe manner due to the size of the gym. For those who missed...the audio recording is located [here](#), the summary is [here](#), and the transcript is [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

**Reflection** - I have always been very blessed by the psalms...maybe because I often identify with David's trials and prayers. Reflecting on today's Responsorial Psalm (4:2,4,7-9)...this year we can probably all particularly identify with the opening verse *"When I call, answer me, O my just God, you who relieve me when I am in distress; have pity on me, and hear my prayer!"* That is our prayer, that God will hear our prayers for an end to this pandemic, that He will relieve our distress and have pity upon us. Let us all pray this prayer, that God will not only have pity on us but also our Community, our church, our country.

If we lack confidence in the answer to our prayers the next responsorial verse provides confident assurance, not only that the Lord hears us when we call upon Him but also that He will do wonders in and through us if we are faithful. *"Know that the LORD does wonders for his faithful one; the LORD will hear me when I call upon him."* This is one of the strongest witnesses of our Community. I have always been impressed with the faithfulness of those who have gone before. As a

Community we have survived multiple generations because of faithfulness. It is the faithfulness of our founders and so many dedicated leaders over the years that laid a foundation, but it is the Yes of every active member today, many who can trace their commitment and regular participation back multiple decades, who are the examples of God's faithful. Let us stand on this promise that He does wonders and answers us when we call upon Him!

In the next responsorial verse David prays "*O LORD, let the light of your countenance shine upon us! You put gladness into my heart.*" Haven't we all experienced this? When we pause, amidst our busy days, and focus on the face of God and allow His life and light to shine upon us...it changes us. It changes our perspective. It puts gladness into our hearts. That is one of the reasons that daily prayer and scripture study have been a fundamental part of living our covenant. We want God's face shining upon us but that requires that we pause and look toward Him.

I loved the last verse of the responsorial psalm because of how much I treasure peaceful sleep. In a day and age where there are SO many talking heads on cable news programs, social media, and YouTube who often are simply saying things that generate clicks or sell commercials...we need a way to tune this all out. Much of this media is politically or financially motivated and not drawing us into a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior. David's profession and prayer was "*As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep, for you alone, O LORD, bring security to my dwelling.*" Amen. That is my prayer. Jesus repeated the words over and over "Peace be with you!" God wants us to live in peace and that happens when we tune out the world, the flesh, the devil, and the talking heads and focus on Him.

Let us pray "*Heavenly Father, I cry out to You as David did and join him in this prayer. Have pity on me for all the times I have taken my eyes off You and fallen from Your will. Relieve me and hear me as I call upon You. Do wonders for me, shine the light of Your face on me and put gladness into my heart. Bring security to my dwelling so that when I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep. Day and night I surrender to You, I trust in You, take care of everything. Amen.*"

God bless,  
David