

Sisters and Brothers, let us surrender together.

7/04/2021

Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Community Gathering will be two weeks from today on July 18th at 4pm in the MSMCS gym.
- If you were not able to attend our Gathering last week, you can listen to the audio [here](#) or review the Word Gift summary [here](#) or read the transcript [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 - *Life is not about me.* This seems like a well-guarded secret. The world chases power, prestige, and possessions at an ever-incessant pace. An oft quoted line about leaders from the Old Testament is "did what was right in their own eyes". If we do what comes naturally, if we follow the example of the world, if we deny or ignore God...we will find ourselves swimming upstream our whole lives.

I think I would have really enjoyed meeting and listening to St. Paul. He has an uncanny way of speaking the truth. In the second reading today ([2 Cor 12:7-10](#)) Paul explains how 'upside down' things are. Boast of my weakness??? That does not make sense, especially to a world chasing the three Ps. But this is the message of God, His Son Jesus, the prophets, Jesus' disciples, and hopefully us.

In the kingdom of God weakness leads to glory. The cross leads to salvation. Hitting a wall in life can lead us to humility (a necessary step toward surrender). If, and only if, we realize that life is not about us, that life is not always going to go as we desire. If we take our eyes off of ourselves and focus on Him, will we recognize that we are created to be His, creatures of faith, humility, love, devotion, and that only through surrender, lowliness, dependance will we turn everything over to God.

The message of the Old Testament battles was God sending large armies away so they would see that their victory was in Him. Or winning battles with Praise rather than weapons. God was revealing His love and protection. Jesus taught the

same in the beatitudes and through His life and example as the suffering servant. Life is not about me or the three Ps.

If we are honest with ourselves, we will see this as we look back upon our own lives. Our strongest relationships are those that have stood the test of trials. I have heard it said that "the goal of marriage is not happiness but Unity." If we seek happiness in life, we will encounter disappointment after disappointment. If we seek unity, with God, with our spouse, with our family, and with our covenant sisters and brothers, we will experience the inner joy that only comes from being one with our creator and confident in His perfect will.

Paul understood this: *"Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong."* It takes a strong Christian to say this. Do we have the courage to embrace these words? Are we content with weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints for the sake of Christ? Just as the Israelites had to learn this lesson, so to do we. And we must keep learning it.

I hesitate to use the term of pride because of the bad connotations but I cannot find a better word. I am proud to be a member of the Christian Community of God's Delight. I am proud you, my fellow sisters and brothers in CCGD. Why, because you are living this day-in and day-out. We are a people that face hardships, challenges, constraints, weaknesses, tragedies, illnesses, suffering, even death... all the 'walls' of life but we do it with hope, faith, and love. I have witnessed holy men and women face the most terrifying prospects in life and greet them with joy, peace, confidence, and respond literally with the words "Praise the Lord". Sisters and Brothers, this is what life is about! It is about us greeting whatever life throws at us with Joy, Praise and Thanksgiving. It is about staring down the world and its tragedies with a joyful smile, with words of praise and love. Let us continue to be a witness for Christ by the way we face life and death and whatever is God's perfect and Holy Will.

Let us pray *"Heavenly Father, I humbly ask that You look past the times I have focused on myself and wash me clean. I want to follow the example of Your*

prophets, Your Son Jesus Christ, St. Paul and all the holy men and women before me in surrendering to You and Your holy and perfect will. Give me the grace to see beyond my life's challenges and see that true strength comes only from You. I rededicate myself to You, to facing today and tomorrow as a fresh start, to walk in Your ways, rely upon You and to always journey to You with the help of my sisters and brothers whom You have called me into relationship with. I love You, surrender to You, and commit myself to do what is right in Your eyes. Amen."

God bless,

David

p.s. Happy Independence Day. It is an interesting contrast of words today. Today is a day we rightly celebrate our nations independence whereas the message from the readings is one of dependance. As we recommit ourselves to our total dependance on God, let us also pray for our nation and its leaders, that we will not take our independence for granted and will once again recognize that we are a great nation that is totally dependent on God our Father and that we live and be recognized as "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!"