

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

We have a new President and new Administration. There was a peaceful transition of power. We pray for their success for our country. In the meantime, we continue to go on with our daily lives.

My devotion today highlights a verse from the Psalms, Psalm 18:35, “Your right hand has held me up, and Your help has made me great.” Help can also be translated gentleness, “Your gentleness has made me great.” First the writer almost seems like he or she is bragging. Your gentleness has made me great. I’m not sure what it means that God’s gentleness has made me or you great? I know what it is for God to hold me up. I’m aware of moments when suddenly I feel courage or hope, or peace and I look to God. But gentleness making me great? Gentleness is one of the gifts of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 “By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” I’m still unsure of how gentleness works with greatness.

Gentleness is the quality of being kind, tender, or mild-mannered. I do know when I’ve been in pain or afraid and I’m approached by someone who is gentle, my defenses drop and often I’m able to listen and be still. If I am gentle with others, will I be seen as great? Will I see myself as great? I have no idea, but gentleness is a choice on my part. I can come across loud, boastful, arrogant, or with gentle words or actions.

Before I sleep tonight, I’m determined to offer someone some gentleness. I hope you have a very blessed Wednesday and keep in prayer our new President and his administration.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin