

GUIDANCE

A 50 Day Spiritual Encounter & Renewal

The Road Ahead

Welcome to **Day 22 in a 50 day journey.** We place ourselves "under" God's teaching as **student learners – apprentices to God through Jesus.** We commit to learning how to live in a way that honors the God who made us in His image, delivers us from slavery to sin and trains us to be responsible members in community. Pentecost reminds us that grace does not excuse us from living responsibly but empowers us to do so through Jesus Christ and the Holy Counselor he sends. Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl suggested a **statue of responsibility** on the west coast to balance the **statue of liberty** on the east coast. How would you feel about a statue dedicated to both liberty and responsibility?



Easter to Pentecost: Growing Delight in God's Guidance

The season of Easter to Pentecost (counting 50 days) traces its origin back to the receiving of the Law — the 10 commandments in particular. During the time of Moses, the people of God were slaves in the land of Egypt. But God delivered the people from a terrible life that is remembered annually among the Jews with the Passover celebration. God empowered the people to walk through the divided Red Sea on dry ground then Moses went up on the mountain to receive the Law and returned 40 days later with two stone tablets — tradition holds that the reception of this Word from God was the first day of Pentecost. Where Passover is a reminder of liberty (after being slaves in Egypt), Pentecost is a reminder of responsibility (a covenant to live right with God and neighbor). The teaching contained on those two tablets, a dual responsibility to God and neighbor, is spiritual truth. Jesus

This Week ...

- **Write/draw brief entries in your 50 Day Journal.**

- **Dig Deeper in Your Bible.**
Psalm 119; Exodus 20:1-47;
Acts. 2:1-21.

- **Share posts** of pictures/
comments on Facebook,
#AwakenMDCOC

- **Facebook Live** Sundays @ 10
AM on Merrick Drive's Page.

Soul Shaping Questions

- The Psalmist says being close to God's teaching brings Joy (Psalm 119). What joys do you experience in Bible learning and walking with God?
- How does the Bible give you life and create hope in you?
- How are you actively craving God's guidance?
- What obstacles do you face in craving or living God's spiritual coaching?
- What is needed for you to take "delight" in hearing God's direction?
- How will grace empower you to live more responsibly to God & neighbor this week?
- If grace does not excuse me from living responsibly, in what ways can I welcome the Spirit to transform my irresponsible behavior to experience resurrection life?

agreed and even said the law and prophets "hang" on this two-fold principle. However, due to the sinfulness of the people in making a golden calf while Moses was on the mountain — violating the covenant even as it's being delivered — the first

Pentecost ended in the death of "about 3,000" people (Exod.

32:28). But the "new" Pentecost experience in the birth of the newly formed Church bearing the name of Jesus brought spiritual resurrection ("about 3,000" were baptized and brought to life that day, Acts. 2:41). This is why Paul can say, the cold written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life (2 Cor. 3:6).

Looking Ahead ...

The Word of God has companions in transforming the soul of Christ's followers. Over the next two weeks, these other two God-given resource tools will be explored: **1) The Church — a local community of spiritual apprentices — and 2) the Holy Spirit** as the personal/communal indwelling presence of God through Christ. **May 31, 2020 will mark the 50th day** after Easter — the day of Pentecost.

A Prayer Blessing for You...

May you grow in the teachings of Christ. May his Word be implanted in you richly. And may this empower you to reflect the very nature of God and bloom to be a living expression of God's love to all those you encounter this week and always.

