

**Good Morning! Let us pray...** *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle within us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy your consolations, through Christ our Lord. May the words of my mouth & the meditations of all our hearts be pleasing in your sight...rock & redeemer of us all. Amen*

**“We Are God’s ...Co-Workers!”** Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

We are a people of choices!

Let’s take a poll... anybody ever go to a restaurant?  
 Anyone go to the same restaurant fairly regularly?  
 Do you order the same thing when you go to that certain restaurant?

These days, there are so many choices that it’s just easier to limit yourself to certain items. Call it a rut, call it a habit, call it your quirky particularity...too many choices is just as difficult to manage as having only two choices.

In college, when I had money and transportation (besides walking), I would go to a fast food place out on Rte 13 named GINO’s... in 1976 their slogan was: **"Gino's Gives You Freedom of Choice"**! Along with their burgers they featured a salad combo. The salad bar... besides lettuce & tomatoes & cucumbers, had all the best stuff...garbanzo beans, kidney beans, artichokes, and beets and cottage cheese, shredded mozzarella, and mixed fruit or peaches.

These days we appear to be a country of choices. Notably, it is an election year...so we have to select from an array of candidates. In fact, life is a matter of ‘choices’.

Our scriptures today remind us there is a preferred choice! In the movie STAR WARS: The Empire Strikes back, Luke has given up before he’s begun by doubting his own abilities and not entrusting himself into the force and the guidance of his master.

Yoda, the great theologian of the Universe says to Luke: *‘Always with you what cannot be done. Hear you nothing that I say... You must unlearn what you have learned.’*

Luke responds: *Alright, I’ll give it a try.’*

Yoda states: *;No try. Do. Do Not. There is no try.*

In the reading from Deuteronomy, Moses giving the Israelites his final Instruction. In fact, the whole book is Moses’ last testament to God’s people...reminding them of God’s faithfulness, God’s covenant with the people of God, and how God has been with them and provided the way (a rule of life) that God’s people to live.

History shows how hard it has been for God's people to walk with God in faithfulness and in covenant. God's people frequently choose their 'own way'. Moses implores them...choose Life!

The reading from Paul reflects conflict within the church in Corinth. Put simply, they fuss over whose they are...to whom they 'belong'. When in truth, they belong to no human...no idol...the people are God's people...and Paul and Apollos are servants...servant leaders, yes, but servants of God, none the less. Each has a gift and a task at hand...but it is God who is the one who provides the growth. Yet, God's people must position their hearts for instruction!

In biblical tradition... the heart is most important and central to God in relationship. It is no wonder that the most important commandment leads with Loving God with all my heart, then all my being, and my strength (6:5).

The great commandments are summarized and illustrated by Jesus in Luke 10 with the teaching of the parable on loving neighbor (25-37) (D 6:5, Lev19:18).

Paul seeks to refocus the Corinthians on matters of the heart, the love God has for each one, and the unified work God's people are called to do. Yet the people are acting out of unspiritualness...sinfulness that is rooted in pride, jealousy, envy, and divisiveness. In other words, they have lost focus on God and God's way.

Pauls use of the metaphors for agriculture and building seek to reconnect the people with God's work through the Holy Spirit, leading and guiding. That we might be rooted in love, not sin.

For John Wesley, the progression in moving from milk to solid food is in searching scripture, and discerning the work of Spirit in daily life as understood through the life and ministry of Jesus. We are to be like Christ, living more with Christ-like love, and following God's way, not our own way.

This is why we must continue to study and make ourselves available to the ongoing work of Holy Spirit in us by loving/serving others. God's not done with us.

Remember We are God's...Co-workers, co-creators...may we renew the face of the earth!

---Let's join together in a response to this good news!

**We have heard your word spoken. Now, may that word grow in our hearts and our lives, that we may work together to build a world where all may share God's abundant life. Amen.**

May it be so. So be it. Amen.