

Trinity Tidings

**October 2017**

*“I pray that, according to the riches of His glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit.”* Ephesians 3:16

You may know people who are strong and brave but, by comparison, feel as if you could never be. And that’s not true...you are strong and courageous because of the power of the Holy Spirit. Martin Luther wrote, “For Christians fear neither the world nor the devil, neither death nor misfortune. It is called spiritual strength. For spiritual strength is not of the flesh but the heart and courage itself.” Luther needed heart and courage when he took a stand against the Catholic Church as he brought to their attention the errant ways of the priests. His convictions caused him to say, “Unless I am convinced by proof from scriptures or by pure and clean reason or argument, I cannot and will not retract. Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me. Amen.” His love for “God breathed scripture” (2nd Tim 3:16) gave him the strength and courage to change the direction of the church with confidence. Over the years the Catholic Church has acknowledged many of his objections included in the 95 Thesis, but by then Luther had already been excommunicated. Luther never wanted his followers to be called Lutherans. He wanted to be a pure, loving, faithful servant of God. He wanted to continue living and teaching as a monk for the Catholic Church. But he moved on, married, had children and through his teachings always sought the truth. Everything he believed could be validated by scripture.

The Bible continues to give us the strength and courage we need today as we endure pain and suffering. Anxiety and turmoil can shock us, knock us down, and sometimes turn our world upside down yet we are told to keep moving forward. Easier said than done, right? However, encouraging words from the Bible and from people like Luther can bring us peace and reassure us that we are never ever alone. The Greek word *pleroforia is* often found in the Bible and means “certainty and fullness of faith [where] hearts never waver but are full of certainty at all times.” And this is what God desires for us – to be confident in all things. And the good news is we are already filled with the power of the Holy Spirit but we often overlook its richness or are too harried to take the time to absorb and appreciate this amazing gift. God waits for our eyes and hearts to turn toward Him to absorb the peace and wisdom He so freely offers. In this society we cannot afford to leave this gift out of our daily routine. Trust me your world will change for the better if you carve out even fifteen minutes every day to spend with God. I try to sit and “be with” God through His Word, Christian music and devotions in the morning before I look at the news, texts, emails, or consider the day’s itinerary. It tempting to jump into the day when we are busy rather than breathe closely with God first, but I find those precious moments alone with Him, in the quiet of the day, sets the tone for the remaining hours I have to do His work. Whatever awaits you today, be confident, and know that you are loved. More importantly know the power of the Holy Spirit is in you and you can do amazing things.

*“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”* 2nd Corinthians 12:9

**Pastor Cheri**