

**Monday, 29 January 2018** James 3:3, 5, 7-10

*If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well...So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!...For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.*

James, in his usual succinct fashion, captures the central role of the tongue as an instrument of obedience and disobedience. That organ, so small in comparison to many other parts of the body, serves as the outlet for much of the evil that resides within me. Likewise, from time to time, the Spirit uses that small muscle to move the Kingdom of Heaven.

Lord, bring about more of you and less of me. Use my tongue for Your work.

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**Tuesday, 30 January 2018** 1 Peter 1:8-9

*Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

"Believe in Him" That's the belief that's part of the belief cycle, believe/trust/commit/obey/faith, that total commitment to the Word of God that comes from a life of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. It is not a work by me but a work of transformation in me.

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**Wednesday, 31 January 2018** 1 Peter 1:14-16

*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

There is no pick and chose option; faith is not the desert at the end of a buffet line. Be **holy!** Be holy in **all** your conduct! There's that pesky little three-letter word, 'all'

again.

I am directed to examine every aspect of my life as a disciple of Jesus Christ and throw out everything that does not conform to His Word. It is only to be accomplished by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

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**Thursday, 1 February 2018** 1 Peter 1:20-21

*He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

Another example of the strong tie between belief and faith. After a period, it finally soaked in that the LORD, God the Almighty made Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man manifest to the believers through the resurrection so that we would have faith and hope in Him. He, the Lord Jesus the Christ is the tie that binds belief and faith.

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**Friday, 2 February 2018** 1 Peter 2:6-7a (NLT)

*As the Scriptures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced." Yes, you who trust Him recognize the honor God has given Him.*

Interesting that where the ESV and the KJV use 'believe' the NIV and NLT use 'trust'. Another example of the interchangeability of the verbs in the Belief cycle. Of more importance is that the ESV's wording in the last sentence carries a significant degree of vagueness about who the honor is attributed to. The other three, and the Greek, leave no doubt that the Godhead bestows the honor upon our Lord Jesus Christ.

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**Saturday, 3 February 2018** 1 Peter 2:7b-8

*[B]ut for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

We've been looking at the positive sides of these verbs, but there is a negative to each. Unfaithfulness, disbelief, distrust, uncommitment, and disobedience; all with

significant and disastrous consequences; all wrapped up in the phrase "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." This stumbling-stone does not result in a stubbed toe or twisted ankle but in an eternity of separation from the LORD, God the Almighty. Eternal damnation!

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**Lord's Day, 4 February 2018 Psalm 119:123-125**

*My eyes long for your salvation and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise. Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes. I am your servant; give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies!*

This is the fear of the Lord: to long for the fulfillment of His salvation and promises and to gain complete understanding of His Word. Guide me as I grow in You, my Lord and my Savior.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to: Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc. PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452

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of the Kingdom of God.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*January 29-February 4, 2018*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 3:13-21**

*So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

LORD, I pray for my fellow brothers of the [congregation] and its leaders, that we would be filled out of that treasury of Your glorious riches, that we would be completely equipped to carry out those works that You prepared for us before the beginning of time. I pray that each of us would be equipped with hearts that are Your dwelling place, hearts that are powered by faith, hearts that display lives of trust and obedience.

May You be glorified through us. Amen

**Creational Theology hint for the week--Christ's Cross**

*Christ's cross over this face I wear, and over my ear. /Christ's cross over my eye. /Christ's cross over my nose. /Christ's cross to accompany me before. /Christ's cross to accompany me behind me. /Christ's cross to meet every difficulty both on hollow and hill /Christ's cross eastwards facing me. /Christ's cross back toward the sunset. In the north, in the south, /Increasingly, may Christ's cross straightway be. /Christ's cross up to broad Heaven. /Christ's cross down to Earth. /Let no evil or hurt come to my body or my soul. /Christ's cross over me as I sit. /Christ's cross over me as I lie. /Christ's cross be all my strength /Until we reach the King of Heaven. /From the top of my head to the end of my toenail, /O Christ, against every danger I trust in the protection of the cross. /Till the day of my death, when my flesh goes into the clay, /And I shall once more take Christ's cross over this face. **Anamchara Books. Earth Afire with God: Celtic Prayers for Ordinary Life (Kindle Locations 419-431). Anamchara Books. Kindle Edition.***