

Monday, 12 February 2018 1 John 3:23-24

And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

When belief leads to trust and trust leads to commitment and commitment leads to obedience and obedience leads to faith, the results produced by the indwelling Spirit are the evidence of my transformation. The essence of James 2:18. A sweet, sweet aroma unto the LORD, God the Almighty.

Tuesday, 13 February 2018 1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

The world assaults me continuously with alternate belief systems, cleverly packaged and served with fancy garnishes. I remember the hucksters at the state fair, promoting their wares with cleverly turned phrases and promises. If I bought one of these whiz-bangs, my mother would never need another utensil in her kitchen. Her laughter was the confirmation that I had been taken. However, the LORD, God the Almighty provides a simpler and far less embarrassing test. Does the prophet acknowledge that the LORD sent His Son, born of a virgin, to live as a man among us, to suffer and die for my sins and to prove the efficacy of that sacrifice by His resurrection and accession to the right hand of the LORD, God, the Almighty?

Pass the test—open arms. Fail the test—run for the door.

Wednesday, 14 February 2018 1 John 4:16

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

I get a sense of the permanency of the relationship that I have entered into with the LORD, God the Almighty. John writes throughout 1 John of various tests and conditions regarding the state of my abiding in the LORD. But the culmination is here, if I abide in agape love, I am assured (can believe, be convicted, have trust, can commit, will obey, and have faith) that I abide in the Lord and He in me.

Thursday, 15 February 2018 1 John 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

There are two significant consequences of the conviction that Jesus is the Christ. One is that I am being regenerated by the LORD, God the Almighty. I am a new man and have entered into the transformation process. I am being made holy. Secondly, I have been brought into a community that is defined by mutual love. A very special love, one which is characterized by sacrificial love for each other and for our neighbors.

Friday, 16 February 2018 1 John 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is a very interesting passage for, there are times, when I wonder if I really love God? Am I still, deep down inside,

that little boy who just wants to please his parents? NO!
John tells me, one of the proofs is that I find great pleasure in living according to His Word and disappointment when I fail. There is an upwelling of gratitude for the grace, mercy, and love that has been shown to me, that drives me to seek to live in accordance with His Word. I want to keep them. They are a joy, not a burden. I am filled with a realization of a life of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Hallelujah.

Saturday, 17 February 2018 1 John 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

What does it mean to be an Overcomer? It means that I live by the tenets and precepts of the belief cycle. It means that I trust in the promises and provisions of the LORD, God, the Almighty. It means that I trust in the LORD with all my heart and lean not upon my own understanding. It means that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. It means that if I acknowledge Him in all my ways, He will guide my every step.

IT MEANS TO LIVE A LIFE OF FAITH!

Lord's Day, 18 February 2018 Psalm 119:165

Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

Amen and amen. The love of Your word is the perfect guard against sin entering into my life and spoiling my walk with You.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



February 12-18, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 6:19-20

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Brothers and sisters, let us make a special vow before the LORD, God, the Almighty to pray that we will each fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, not just this week, but every week. Let us pray that our congregation will be known for the boldness of the members in proclaiming that message of repentance that leads to life in the Kingdom and the life of righteousness, peace and joy that is its defining nature.

Amen

Announcement: I began a series of meditations, observations and prayers in the spring of 2015 on the Scriptural use of the verbs, to believe, to trust, to commit, to obey and to have faith. The most important understanding that I came to through this exercise was to gain an appreciation for the inter-relatedness of these verbs. They form an ever repeating chain as I am transformed from one degree of glory to another. (2 Cor. 3:18).

This series comes to an end with the week of 2/19-25/2018. Lord willing, I will begin a series, "To Fear or Not to Fear, That is the Question," on 2/26 to examine what Scripture tells me about what it means to fear or not fear the Lord. Please join me and enter into the conversation.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, 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 or to

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