

**Monday, 7 May 2018** Deuteronomy 20:1-4

*“When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people and shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, for the LORD your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.’*

This is addressed to the people of God, those who fear Him, who have faith and belief and trust and commitment and obey His Word. We, the Body of Christ, are numbered among the precious recipients of that promise. Hallelujah!

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**Tuesday, 8 May 2018** Deuteronomy 25:17-18 “

*Remember what Amalek (see Exodus 17:-16) did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt, how he attacked you on the way when you were faint and weary, and cut off your tail, those who were lagging behind you, and he did not fear God.*

The referenced story is a powerful example of the impact of the fear of the LORD in v11. As Moses held up his hands to indicate trust in the LORD, Israel prevailed, when he lowered his hands, no longer calling on the LORD, God, the Almighty, Amalek prevailed.

Shouldn't I learn from this that a primary focus of a life characterized by prayer without ceasing, should be thanksgiving to the Lord knowing that all things work together for my good? There are Amaleks in my life.

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**Wednesday, 9 May 2018** Deuteronomy 28:9-10

*The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.*

I wonder if much of the fear and hatred towards Christians does not stem from our attempts to walk in obedience to the Word of God? Yes, there have been many times in the history of the Christian faith when we did not display love of neighbor, even as we attempted to explain why our faith prohibited certain behaviors. We have allowed our hatred of sin to be taken as hatred of individuals. But do other religions elicit the same

reactions, fear, and hatred?

Might those reactions be in response to our desire to worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness? Should we not expect the Kingdom of Man to hate any trace of the holiness of the LORD, God, the Almighty?

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**Thursday, 10 May 2018** Deuteronomy 28:15, 58

*“But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you...“If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the LORD your God,*

Let's start with Proverbs 28:9 *God detests the prayers of a person who ignores the law.(NLT)* Why should I expect the LORD, God, the Almighty to respect my prayers when I am in defiance of His Word? He called me before I was formed in my mother's womb (Ps 139:13-16), He chose me to be one of His own, and I respond by spitting in His eye?

This reflects a false concept of the fear of the LORD; this is faith in a namby-pamby being, an enabling god who allows his children unlimited license to disobey his wishes. No, no, no! His Church, the Body of Christ, is called to worship an awesome God, the one of whom it is said, " *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*" Hebrews 10:31

Let us worship Him in spirit and in truth. John 4:23

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**Friday, 11 May 2018** Deuteronomy 28:64-65

*“And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.*

Don't we see the fulfillment of this prophecy today among the remnant of the Israelites? Scattered and often despised, the target of pogroms and holocausts, yet still maintaining their lineage. The LORD will call His chosen people home.

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**Saturday, 12 May 2018** Deuteronomy 31:6-8

**Be strong and courageous.** *Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”* Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the

sight of all Israel, **“Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”**

The question to be resolved is whether or not the promises made to the Israelites apply to me and my walk as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God on earth in the here and now?

Yes, I believe in/trust in/commit to/have faith in and thereby am called to obey the Word of God in all aspects of my life. Therefore, I can take all the promises of the LORD, God, the Almighty as being promises to me. He said, "Repent for the Kingdom of God is available to you now." and variants in Matthew 3:2, 4,17, Mark 1:15, Act 2:38, 3:19, 8:22, 17:30. 26:20

Do I get the message? Live in obedience, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and enjoy the righteousness, peace, and joy that is life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now? (Romans 14:17)

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**Lord's Day, 13 May 2018** Psalm 119:105-112

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word! Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules. I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.*

The precious Word that illuminates my life: filling me with praise; outlining the boundaries of the Kingdom and instructing me on all aspects of life in the Kingdom; warning me of the entrapments of the Evil One; and directing me in Kingdom work. They bring great joy and comfort to my soul, insuring that all my life is congruent with Your will.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*May 7-13, 2018*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 5:28**  
*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all to whom we minister, to our entire Personal Mission Field. May our every endeavor be directed to bring all those that You have given to us into the fold, to bring about the discipling of all nations as You have directed. *Amen*

**To fear or not to fear, that is the question.**

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

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:

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