

**Monday, 14 May 2018** Deuteronomy 31:11-13

*when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.*

Do I see this significant relationship? That an understanding of the fear of the LORD, God the Almighty comes through hearing and studying all Word of the LORD, God, the Almighty. Not just through reading the red lettered words, not just through studying the New Testament, but all the Words of the LORD, God, the Almighty. It means taking up the never-ending process of hiding His word in my heart so that I might not sin against the LORD, God, the Almighty. (Psalm 119:11) Taking it up constantly and consistently.

---

**Tuesday, 15 May 2018** Deuteronomy 32:15-18

*“But Jeshurun (Israel—ed.) grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger. They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth.*

Addressed to Israel but certainly applies to those of us who have been grafted in. We, His Body, His people, His Church have abandoned hearing and learning of the Word so that we can be accepted by the culture in which we live. We have adopted a buffet faith; we follow strange gods (try the god of Choice on for size), We sanction all abominations, not by the culture around us, but by the culture within us. We practice forms of entertainment and call them worship. What a farce!

Then we have the temerity to curse Him because He does not hear our prayers. They are an abomination unto Him (Proverbs 28:9)

---

**Wednesday, 16 May 2018** Deuteronomy 32:19-27

*“The LORD saw it and spurned them, because of the provocation of his sons and his daughters. And he said, ‘I will hide my face from them; I will see what their end will be, for they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faithfulness. They have made me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are no people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. For a fire is kindled by my anger, and it burns to the depths of Sheol, devours the earth and its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.’ “And I will heap disasters upon them; I will spend my arrows on them; they shall be wasted with hunger, and devoured by plague and poisonous pestilence; I will send the teeth of beasts against them, with the venom of things that crawl in the dust. Outdoors the sword shall bereave, and indoors terror, for young man*

*and woman alike, the nursing child with the man of gray hairs. I would have said, “I will cut them to pieces; I will wipe them from human memory,” had I not feared provocation by the enemy, lest their adversaries should misunderstand, lest they should say, “Our hand is triumphant, it was not the LORD who did all this.”*

I'm very curious. The LORD states clearly that He is withholding His hand from dealing with Israel as they deserved. Is His hand being withheld from dealing with His church as we deserve as the result of our apostasy? Maybe the post-tribbers are almost right, but will the Tribulation be a cleansing of the Church?

I don't know but my only acceptable recourse is to keep hearing and learning the Word, hiding it in my heart, seeking to live out each day as a disciple of Jesus Christ in the here and now in every venue where He has placed me.

---

**Thursday, 17 May 2018** Joshua 1:7-9

*Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*

Do I hear the thunderous voice of the LORD, God the Almighty? **"BELIEVE ME, TRUST ME, COMMIT TO ME, OBEY ME, HAVE FAITH IN ME!"**? Do I? Do I really hear Him? Or do I blithely mouth the words, "He will never leave me nor forsake me"? And go merrily on my way bending His precious Word to fit my desires. Please don't mistake my emphasis on the BCOF cycle to indicate an urging to earn one's salvation. No, it must be an upwelling of thanksgiving and gratitude for His great love, mercy, and grace which is revealed through that cycle.

---

**Friday, 18 May 2018** Joshua 2:8-11

*Before the men lay down, she (Rehab—ed.) came up to them on the roof and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.*

Do I realize today that those stories that reflect His love for me are as important a witness to my personal mission field as the stories of the Israelite's rescue from Egypt were to Rehab? My mouth must be filled with the events of my transformation, with the healings that I have

experienced, with the evidences of answered prayers, with recognition of His blessings and His love as expressed through discipline. I don't see all the answers, sometimes He speaks and moves without my awareness, but sometimes His answer is so immediate it is breathtaking. I need to be bold in my testimony as I praise Him.

---

**Saturday, 19 May 2018** *Joshua 4:21-24*

*And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.' For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."*

The people of Israel walked through the Jordan on dry ground. He has set my feet on dry ground to walk through the fetid mess that is the culture around me. He has brought me out of my personal Egypt into the Kingdom of God in the here and now, my Promised Land. LORD, forgive me for not sharing the story with my children. I bear the burden of that grievous sin, that offense against You and a demonstration that my love for my family is weak, weak beyond description.

---

**Lord's Day, 20 May 2018** *Psalms 119:113-120*

*I hate the double-minded, but I love your law. You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God. Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually! You spurn all who go astray from your statutes, for their cunning is in vain. All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross, therefore I love your testimonies. My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.*

Lord, the theme here seems to be the dangers caused by double-mindedness both in others and in myself. I need to guard against its effects in those around me—where and when the men profess to be saintly in the chapel yet live lives of the world in their living units. That needs to be prominent in my teaching.

But first, it needs to be prominent in my life—is my walk before you one of loving my fellowman and in humility, seeking justice and mercy for all? Am I a faithful messenger of the Word? Do I speak of the power of your love to all I meet and touch? Do I walk as one called to You; one empowered by You to be Your witness? No! I am weak and cowardly, a double-minded man. Forgive me, Lord.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*May 14-20, 2018*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Thessalonians 1:3ff**

*We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. . . .*

Thank You, LORD for the increase among the [congregation] in our love for each other and for the growth in solidarity as a community dedicated to advancing the Kingdom in the here and now.

I thank You, LORD for the example of each member and the encouragement that each is in their perseverance; in their faith; in their willingness to undergo hardship and trials for Your Name's sake. 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:

Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc.

PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452 or to [prior@ailbe.org](mailto:prior@ailbe.org)

The Fellowship of Ailbe, ([www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org))  
Realizing the presence, promise and power  
of the Kingdom of God.