

Monday, 16 July 2018 Genesis 1:26a, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 2 Corinthians 3:18
Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. (KJV)

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

I am made in the image of God, the Father, God the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit? That means that I am formed with elements from each of the Three-in-One. Paul gives a major hint regarding my inheritance from each in closing prayer in the second letter to Corinth. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

I believe that the latter is displayed in two different relationships. The first is the communion that each saint has with the Holy Spirit and the second, as a result of the first, is the saint to saint communion that we all enjoy with each other.

Tuesday, 17 July 2018, John 14:26 , Romans 12:2

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The Holy Spirit, the third member of the Trinity, has an important role in leading each one of His people into a right relationship with the LORD, God, the Almighty. He is the Teacher, the Mentor, the one who reminds of every Word the proceeds from the mouth of the LORD, (Ps 119:11) He sometimes speaks to let us know that something in our plans is not according to the will of the LORD. See Acts 16:6-7 *And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.*

This is followed immediately by an example where the Spirit says, "Do this instead." Acts 16:9-10 *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

Where do we get the ability to discern the good and acceptable and perfect will of God? It is through the renewal of our minds as led by the Holy Spirit reminding us of all our Lord and Savior has said to us.

Wednesday, 18 July 2018 Romans 8:14-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order

that we may also be glorified with him.

Have you ever met someone whom you sensed from the first few moments together, that you were in the presence of another member of the family of the LORD, God, the Almighty? Yes, and sometimes in the most unexpected circumstances. The Holy Spirit working through both of us is revealing our heritage to us. A most precious event.

Is there not a special joy that infuses the conversation from that point forward? Not because the spirit in me speaks to the spirit in you, but it is the Holy Spirit speaking to both our hearts, saying, "Brother, meet brother. Meet someone who also lives in the Fear of the LORD."

Is there not a special peace that infuses a time of sharing a meal, whether it be a dinner or a cuppa at the diner, with another believer or even conversation over the phone or internet? The peace that passes all understanding should be, but is not always, present in the hearts of all.

These are instances when we should all be "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" Ephesians 4:3

Thursday, 19 July 2018 Acts 13:1-4

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

A beautiful example of the implementation and execution of the will of the LORD. First, the Holy Spirit lays out the task. Take two specific individuals and set them apart for the job I have for them. The instruction to set apart implies that some responsibilities and commitments needed to be reassigned. Secondly, the church spent some time in fasting and prayer. It is not unreasonable to think that this was a time of seeking confirmation. Thirdly, having received the confirmation, they laid hands upon Paul and Barabas and sent them off. I'm sure this was not a casual separation but one of rejoicing, of sharing resources and of praying for their safety and guidance.

Yes, working in partnership with the Holy Spirit but recognizing His authority and direction.

Friday, 20 July 2018 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

As Paul prays for the saints in Corinth, so should we all be praying for the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to be leading all our fellow saints. It is through the one on one communion between Spirit and saint that the Kingdom of Heaven advances on earth.

He advances the Kingdom in often mysterious ways. For example, He drew my attention, in the summer of 2003, to a short announcement that Chuck Colson was starting an intensive year-long study in Biblical

Worldview and the Spirit suggested (insisted?) that I apply. After some discussion, of the not me, Lord, type, I applied to and was accepted into the first Centurion's Program. It was a life-altering event with every aspect of the current lives of John and Betty Nunnikhoven springing from that year. Now, 15 years later, I am filled with an appreciation of Paul's words in Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." in the here and now that only could have come from the course He set me on.

Saturday, 21 July 2018 John 16:7-15

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

This passage speaks of a very personal, an intimate relationship between saint and Spirit. He, through that one on one relationship, guides me into all truth as I am ready to understand them. The Lord Jesus pulled no punches with His disciples then and still does not today. THERE ARE SOME TRUTHS THAT I AM NOT CAPABLE OF COMPREHENDING NOW! However, the Holy Spirit firmly and usually gently, guides me into all truth. He knows me and my limitations. He works, one step at a time, to transform me into the image of Christ. *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.* 2 Corinthians 3:18

Lord's Day, 22 July 2018 Psalm 119:49-50

Remember Your word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise gives me life.

Lord, Your promise is my hope. I know that I am safe in Your arms, that there is nothing that can separate me from Your love. Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things I am more than a conqueror through You who loves me. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord.

Thank You, Lord, for the gift of the Holy Spirit who imbues me with trust in Your promise. Amen and amen.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



July 16-22, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

As Paul prayed for Timothy that the Lord be with his spirit and that the grace of God would fill him, so let us pray for each other this week. Let us covenant to raise up each member and their personal ministry by praying through our congregational directory. 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.

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Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc.
PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452 or to prior@ailbe.org

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