

Monday, 13 August 2018 Luke 10:17-21

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

It is significant to me that Jesus, the Son of God communicated with God the Father through God the Holy Spirit as the Son of Man. So must I, as a child of the Father, be unswerving to speak and listen to Him through the Spirit. Rather like using modern communications technology to replace smoke signals that I try to use as I mumble to Him.

Other precious points in this passage are 1) the Lord's instruction to rejoice that my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life rather than in anything I might accomplish in His name. Another warning against being a present day Tommy Tucker. 2) The anonymity of the seventy-two. Ordinary Joe Bagadonuts, off the street guys, sent to apply the Kingdom of Heaven in the Here and Now. He gave them the authority and said, "Go". He gives me the authority and says, "Go."

Tuesday, 14 August 2018 Luke 11:9-13

*And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**"*

How many times have I read this passage? Many! How many sermons have I heard on this passage? Many! How many times has that last sentence soaked into my heart? 1! Now!

I believe, as I have written before, that the Holy Spirit was given to me and to every believer upon acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior and Master. That when I confessed with my mouth and believed in my heart that God had raised Him from the dead, that it was a done deal and the gift of the Holy Spirit was the guarantor of the completion of my salvation. But the last sentence indicates that I need to ask the LORD, God, the

Almighty for the awareness of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and that I will not be refused.

LORD, God, the Almighty, grant me an awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Enrichen my relationship with You that Your grace and mercy may shine more brightly in my life.

Wednesday, 15 August 2018 John 1:32-34

And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

John the Baptist shared an eye witness account which verifies that Jesus is indeed the Son of God. He saw and he witnessed. How do I share the personal account that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Master? It is through my obedience to His Word and through sharing the message of the grace, love, and mercy that His death on the cross makes available to all. I must take the message of Revelation 3:20 *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me."* everywhere that my feet touch or my voice reaches.

Thursday, 16 August 2018 John 3:5-8

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

"Born of water" Truly alive, a sentient being, capable of understanding and deciding. "Born of the Spirit" Transformed, changed from one who is driven by self-will into a being that seeks the Face of God and is guided by the Fear of the LORD. Both conditions must be met to allow entry into the Kingdom of God.

Friday, 17 August 2018 John 3:5-8

*Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not*

know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Flesh can only reproduce flesh. My sinful nature cannot reproduce anything but a similar nature. But that which is Spirit produces a new being, a new creature that reflects *the righteousness, peace and joy that is life in the Holy Spirit* (Romans 14:17)

Saturday, 18 August 2018 John 3:5-8

*Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' **The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.**"*

As I looked out the window a few minutes ago, the tree's leaves were moving briskly and the local weather reporting station indicated a wind speed of 8 mph. Yup, about right, but the leaves stopped moving for a couple of minutes. My reporting station didn't catch up, but there is no doubt in my mind that the wind is gusty this afternoon.

So it is with a being that has been born again. Their demeanor changes, perhaps a bit gusty, but changes. Maybe begin to cringe a bit when someone takes the Name of the LORD in jest or as a curse. Or demonstrate a peace and acceptance of circumstances that was not present before. Like the leaves move when the wind blows, so the Holy Spirit begins to work change, to begin transformation in the newly reborn.

Lord's Day, 19 August 2018 Psalm 119:82

My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?"

Lord it is so easy for me to forget that you are always with me. It is when I ignore your presence, refuse to accept your offering hand, drown myself in a pity pot of my own making that I ask, "When will you comfort me?"

It is another way of worshiping self rather than you. And blaming you at the same time for the "self" induced misery.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



August 13-19, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Romans 1:8-10

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

LORD, my prayer is that I would be more fully transformed to continuously praise You for the members of the *(Insert the name of the fellowship where you worship)*.

To praise and thank You for the proclamation of the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now that is taking place through the ministries of my brothers and sisters.

I pray that You will continue to provide for our needs, that Your Spirit will lead us into all truth and supply us with the words necessary to bring Your light into every corner of this village.

When, by Your will, as we come together may we experience the joy of Your presence and of our mutual joy of being together. Come, Lord Jesus, come. 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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