

Monday, 20 August 2018 John 3:33-36 (NLT)

Anyone who accepts His testimony can affirm that God is true. For He is sent by God. He speaks God's words, for God gives Him the Spirit without limit. The Father loves His Son and has put everything into His hands. And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. **Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment."**

This is an important connector between salvation and obedience. If I believe in God's Son, I will have eternal, and the proof will be that I live a life of obedience to His Word. Good old basis logic: if a=b and b=c then a=c. Another confirmation that the Belief Cycle is correct. Belief=trust=commitment=obedience=faith=belief=

Tuesday, 21 August 2018 John 7:37-39

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, '**Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**'" **Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

Rivers of Living Water flow from my heart. WOW! Have you ever seen a major river at full flood? I remember, as a teenager, standing on the bluffs on the Iowa side of the Mississippi, completely spread, 10 miles wide, to the hills of Illinois and changing everything in its path.

So does that River of Living Water as it emerges from me. It changes everything. It must; there is nothing that can stand in its way except my unbelief.

Wednesday, 22 August 2018 John 14:15-17

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

I have a lawn tractor that is a very useful device. If it has fuel; if it runs out in the middle of the lawn, it is a worthless device that does not even make an attractive lawn ornament. So it is with the Holy Spirit. Without His presence, I am a useless device without any attractiveness. But with the Spirit's guidance and power, I can move mountains.

There is a very important 'if' at the beginning of the passage. **If I love and obey the LORD, God, the Almighty.** If I willingly Fear the Lord. He expects me to be an active participant in the work of bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth.

Thursday, 23 August 2018 John 14:22-27

Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 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. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Judas (not Iscariot) asks a fundamental question and one which I need to ask and dwell upon the answer. Perhaps I also need to include 'why?' in the question. Do I comprehend the depth and power of the LORD, God, the Almighty for me? Is it the driving force behind every aspect of my life? That love for His Creation, "For God so loved the world" is so powerful and intense that a member of the Trinity came as an incarnate man to take the punishment for the havoc that man wrecks on His pristine Creation.

Friday, 24 August 2018 John 14:22-27

Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" **Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 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. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

If I return His love, a conditional statement, He will make His home with me. I should understand the importance of a welcoming, hospitable environment being an absolute necessity for the guest beginning at the moment of their arrival. You would think that something soaked in after 20+ years as an innkeeper. There it was a neat, attractive approach and entrance to the property that got their visit off on the right foot.

That neat, attractive, welcoming entrance into my heart is an environment that seeks to return His love and sacrifice through

obedience to His Word. Complete, total, no argument, no debate obedience. A consuming desire to please Him in every aspect of my life.

Saturday, 25 August 2018

John 14:22-27

Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. **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.** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

How is that neat, attractive entrance into my heart formed? What does it look like? The aroma? The sounds? The ambiance? Calm down, John. The LORD, God, the Almighty sends the Comforter, the Holy Spirit to teach me **ALL** things and remind me of **ALL** that He has told me through His Word.

Just listen and don't be afraid to lay out the details before the Spirit. Don't be afraid to appear to be a dummy; to be very open with Him; He cannot be fooled. I need to be contrite and be willing to come to the Spirit for guidance in **ALL** things from the moment I open my eyes until I fall asleep at night. I need to enter into every situation by beginning with a silent prayer for guidance in showing love of neighbor and a compulsion to honor the LORD, God, the Almighty. To do so is to apply the Fear of the LORD in the immediate.

Lord's Day, 26 August 2018 Psalm 119:91

By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants.

Lord, I fight against accepting that inclusive "all" for how can evil things be Your servants. So much of my resistance is that I still have far more than a shred of self that insists on dominating my mind and thoughts; I fight against accepting that You are God and I am not.

But You are the LORD, God Almighty, the Son of the Living God, the Holy Spirit, and I am Your servant. "All things work together for good for those that love You." I am Your servant, help me, Holy Spirit to accept "all."

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



August 20-26, 2018

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

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Lord my prayer for the (*Insert the name of the fellowship where you worship*) is that we would be steadfast in our desire to lead others into the presence, promise and power of Your Kingdom. Cause us to be unswerving in our proclamation of the life of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit that is only possible through commitment to You as Lord and Master.

I pray this in the power of Your Name, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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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