

Monday, 29 October 2018 Romans 8:8, 9

Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ... You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

Continuing in the Freedom Chapter, I find myself wondering why we spend so much time and energy preaching Romans 1 and so little on exhorting the saints to revel in the promises of freedom in Romans 8. As I look at this passage, I only have to consider one simple question, "Does the Holy Spirit reside within me or not?"

The answer is **YES!** I am a transformed individual, not a finished product but transformed by the power of the Spirit working in and through me. So, buckle down and continue the transformation.

Tuesday, 30 October 2018 Romans 8:8, 10

Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ...But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

I cannot help but be aware, as I puzzle my way through my ninth decade, that my body is indeed not quite as agile and spry as it once was. However, as I look at the state of the world around me, I am convinced that the Lord's return will be in my lifetime. Either way, I win because I have life as a gift of the Spirit. I am freed from a fear of death.

Wednesday, 31 October 2018 Romans 8:8, 11

Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ... And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Yup, just what I wrote yesterday. I live today as a Spirit-led mortal body and will continue to do so until I'm called home. It is a joy-filled, one day at a time, life pursuing a Spirit-directed life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now.

Thursday, 1 November 2018 Romans 8:8, 12-13

Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ... Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation--but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

I wonder if Paul was referring to life in the here and now? Indeed, life in the flesh is not one of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17) but life according to the Spirit indeed is. I can put to death the misdeeds of the body through the help and guidance of the Spirit as He leads me into all truth.

Friday, 2 November 2018 Romans 8:8, 14

Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ...For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that we are! (1 John 3:1a, NIV) Led by the Spirit into a land flowing with milk and honey.

Saturday, 3 November 2018 Romans 8:8, 15

Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ...The Spirit you received does not make you slaves so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

I no longer live a life filled with fear inculcated by the Ten Commandments but as a son of the living God, seeking to understand and shape my life today by the ethos of the family. Yes, there are times when I stumble and stub my toe, but my Father extends grace in response to my repentance to restore my communion with Him. Not carte blanche to pound my little brother whenever, but a path back to the righteousness, peace, and joy that is family life.

Lord's Day, 4 November 2018 Psalm 119:41

Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your promise;

Lord, You promise that if I seek You, I will find You. I want that finding to be deeper and richer; to be more constant, that I will always be aware of You in my life; Your hand guiding, Your Spirit speaking; never without the Presence.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



October 29-November 4, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 1:18a, 22-23

I pray also that (incomparably great power) ... And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Lord, we pray that we, Your Church, will be the vessel through which that incomparably great power will be brought to bear for Your glory and for the enhancement of the presence, promise and power of the Kingdom. Let us always recognize that we are Your body, the fullness of You in every way. *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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