

Monday, 26 November 2018 1 Corinthians 6:17-20

But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

The Lord Jesus prays that we would be one even as he and the Father are one. John 17:11 It never really soaked in. Paul brings illumination to this portion of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer.

I've read this quartet of verses many times but never linking the two underlined sentences. This thought that I am a unique being with my Lord Jesus Christ, Jesus'n'John, incredible. He and I are a Us. And that the resultant being is the Temple of the LORD, God, the Almighty through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. I am shaking with the implications of this revelation.

I, long ago, accepted the notion that my body is the temple of God, but not at this level of understanding. I AM ONE IN THE SPIRIT WITH MY LORD JESUS, THE CHRIST! ONE! Just as John'n'Betty is one unique being (cf Gen 2:24) so am I with my Lord.

Tuesday, 27 November 2018 1 Corinthians 7:40

Yet in my judgment, she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

This would have been an excellent opportunity for Paul to exercise his apostolic authority, but he restrained. The quiet lesson to me is to be very, very careful about making flat statements regarding the reception of a direct word from the Lord.

Wednesday, 28 November 2018 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 (1)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however, you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one

Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Paul dives into a very complete and concise statement of the role of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives as the Ambassadors of Reconciliation and His Messengers of the Good News. I am going to break this up over the next seven weekdays but not repeat the passage except for the phrase under consideration for that day.

He begins with an important test. The Spirit will never lead me to curse the Lord nor will He ever enable someone who is not part of the Body of Christ to acknowledge Him as Lord. It is abhorrent to me to even imagine cursing my Lord, and disgusting to want to use His name in vain. That transformation is uncontested evidence that I have been transformed by the Spirit. Likewise, to be able to acknowledge Jesus as Lord with conviction is the other side of the coin. I am His, and He is mine.

Thursday, 29 November 2018 (2) 1 Corinthians 12:4

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

Just as Galatians 5:22-23 list the flavors of the fruit of the Spirit, the following verses list the gifts of the Spirit. But the difference is that the flavors of the fruit of the Spirit are nuances of the same fruit, the gifts are separate and identifiable. I suspect that each gift is present in each believer but differing degrees. And that it is not beyond the power of the LORD, God, the Almighty to empower any of the gifts to a greater degree when that serves His purposes

Friday, 30 November 2018 1 Corinthians 12:7

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

"The manifestation of the Spirit for the common good," not my good. To the extent and in the fashion that the Spirit is manifested in me, it is for the good of the Body. It is not a Tommy Tucker phenomenon, no good boy pronouncements or displays of tasty plums. I must strive to serve the Body with humility and in modesty. Work to be done!

Saturday, 1 December 2018 (4) 1 Corinthians 12:8

For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

Has anyone had the experience of dealing with someone who has a considerable fund of knowledge, knows everything but cannot apply it to life? Contrast that person with one who has little learning in a worldly sense but lives a Godly life in the fear of the LORD. Is that not a demonstration of the accuracy of Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction* and Proverbs 2:6 *For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;*

Wisdom is the Godly application of knowledge. Both are gifts of the spirit; sometimes manifested in the same individual.

Lord's Day, 2 December 2018 Psalm 119:147

I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words.

We are now at that time of year where rising before dawn is getting easier and easier. This is a time without distractions from the outside, there is nothing that can be seen, and all is quiet before the bustle of the day begins. But soon, slowly the world will begin to be revealed, and I will need to be ready for it. The opening, the revealing of Your creation each morning is a story in itself, a story of how You come to us and show Yourself as the loving, Creator God, coming to draw us unto Yourself and provide for Your people. Praise You, my Lord and Master.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



November 26-December 2, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 6:19-20

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Brothers and sisters, let us make a special vow before the LORD, God, the Almighty to pray that we will each fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, not just this week, but every week. Let us pray that our congregation will be known for the boldness of the members in proclaiming that message of repentance that leads to life in the Kingdom and the life of righteousness, peace and joy that is its defining nature. **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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