

**Monday, 3 December 2018** 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 (5)

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.

I thought it would be good to post the entire passage to maintain the context as I continue through this compelling description of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues; all powerful and essential to the growth of the Body. Is one more important to this goal than another? No; no more than a car's engine is more critical than a tire to the utility of an automobile.

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**Tuesday, 4 December 2018** 1 Corinthians 12:11 (6)

All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

It is so easy for me to look in envy at the ministries of various brothers. They are doing great and marvelous works within the Body of Christ. Some things with national recognition and even worldwide impact as they labor for the Lord.

What did I say? Did I admit that the recognition of the world is more important to me than hearing my Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant?" Yes, forgive me, Lord, and continue an obviously unfinished work in me. Your Spirit has provided

me with every gift that is needed for me to complete the work apportioned to me. It does not matter whether I have 1 or 1000 talents, it only matters how I use what I've been given.

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**Wednesday, 5 December 2018** 1 Corinthians 12:12 (7)

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. Isn't this precious? We are one body with Christ. All who name Jesus the Christ as Lord and Savior and who believe that He was resurrected from the dead are one with Him and with each other Jesus'n'Body are one entity.

I cannot; no must not refuse the love and outreach of another member of the Body—we are one. How is Lord's heart must break at the schisms and separations that exist within the Body? How would I feel if two of my grandchildren would not even sit at my table and share a meal together?

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**Thursday, 6 December 2018** 1 Corinthians 12:13 (8)

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.

Or as I frequently paraphrase this passage, Jews or Greeks, inmates or volunteers. I wonder what Paul would have to say about today's proliferation of denominations? Would not be complementary and might make 1 Cor. sound laudatory. I often think about those 21 young Copts who gave their lives for the Gospel; what a joy it will be to meet them. I have been made to drink of the same Spirit as they have. Hallelujah!

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**Friday, 7 December 2018** 1 Corinthians 14:1-4

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

Would seeking the gift of prophecy over the gift of tongues be an act of agape love in action. Are the gifts an either or? But I do think that I should pursue all to the extent needed to enable me to do my part in building up the church.

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**Saturday, 8 December 2018** 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our

hearts as a guarantee.

39 years since I began to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Oh, He had been there, lurking in the background until I was willing to listen to the direction being offered. What a ride it has been as I refuse the advice and often pay the penalty or acceptance His leading and revel in the joy of the reward. Not earthly rewards, though He has been faithful to provide for my needs, the reward of a life lived in the righteousness, peace, and joy of the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now.

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**Lord's Day, 9 December 2018** Psalm 119:160

*The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.*

There is no expiration date, no sunset clause in any of Your righteous rules. The same yesterday, the same today, the same tomorrow.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*December 3-9, 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.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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Realizing the presence, promise and power  
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