

Monday, 17 December 2018 2 Corinthians 6:4a, 6b
but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way:...the Holy Spirit, genuine love;

I must demonstrate the movement of the Holy Spirit within me in a way that results in genuine love given to all in my Personal Mission Field. It is not a matter of how they respond to me but how I respond to them.

Tuesday, 18 December 2018 2 Corinthians 13:11-14
Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The last sentence is Paul's prayer at the conclusion of 2 Corinthians. It should be my constant prayer for my brothers and sisters in the Lord. However, shouldn't my daily prayers also include prayers for any restoration necessary in the community where we worship? Prayers that it should be a community where a spirit of comfort exists; a community of agreement and peace? Prayers that the God of love and peace will be evident to all who come in contact with the community?

Wednesday, 19 December 2018 Galatians 3:1-2
O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

A prevailing question for 2000 years. Do I accept the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His resurrection to be the necessary and sufficient conditions for my salvation and restoration to the family of the LORD, God, the Almighty or do I find something lacking that I must contribute? If my answer is the latter, I have just placed myself in the untenable position that I am smarter than God.

I must respond with a heartfelt cry, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." And His answer to me is a gentle, "Welcome home, son, I've done it all."

Thursday, 20 December 2018
Galatians 3:3
Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

This was a puzzling verse at my first reading. What is Paul getting at here? And then I began to hear the Spirit's gentle voice in the recesses of my mind. Do you remember the times that you charged ahead on your initiative when faced by a problem? You haven't learned that you need to start, the very first step, to seek My guidance.

Is this what the Spirit is telling me here? Is this part of the "praying without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17)? I make it the MO of my life to always seek the direction of the LORD, God, the Almighty in every aspect of my life.

Friday, 21 December 2018 Galatians 3:5-9
Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Each one of us, who believes (belief-trust-commit-obey-faith) God, are considered righteous in His eyes.

Therefore, each one of us is a son of Abraham and given the responsibility, privilege, and an opportunity to be a blessing to the world through the Spirit as He guides us. Isn't this what our Lord is telling us in Matt 28:19?

Saturday, 22 December 2018 Galatians 3:13-14
Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

I received the Holy Spirit through faith; it had absolutely

nothing to do with who I was or how I led my life. However, having received the Spirit, I am charged with living my life in a way that honors the LORD, God the Almighty. I am to pursue the advancement of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth as it is in Heaven. I understand—now do it.

Lord's Day, 23 December 2018 Psalm 119:174

I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight.

I long for the day when all will be restored, and Shalom will be the order of the day. When all will be light; when Your Law completely defines the ethos of life; that day when the Kingdom is.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



December 17-23, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Jude's prayer in Jude 1:24-25

“Now to Him who is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. 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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