

**Monday, 10 December 2018** 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

*You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*

Can I point to various individuals and claim that they are my letter of recommendation, written upon their transformed hearts by the Spirit of the living God? Is it essential that I know? Whose letter of recommendation am I? Should I make an effort to tell them? Wouldn't it be an encouragement to them to know of the part they played in my journey to a relationship with the LORD, God, the Almighty?

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**Tuesday, 11 December 2018** 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

*Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

When I write with pen and ink or keyboard, it is delible. Easily! When the Spirit writes it is indelible. Totally! I write on paper or with bytes electronically, all very transient. The Spirit writes on the hearts of man with words of transformation into the image of Christ, completely intransient.

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**Wednesday, 12 December 2018** 2 Corinthians 3:7-8

*Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?*

Should not the ministry of the Spirit be reflected in my life to a degree which exceeded the reflected glory that the Israelites saw in Moses' face? Should not my total being and life reflect the hope that lies within me (1 Peter 3:15) to a degree that demands the question? I must reflect the righteousness, peace, and joy that is life in the Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

**Thursday, 13 December 2018** 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

*But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

There is freedom, freedom from what? The word is meaningless unless I understand and accept what I am being freed from? First and foremost I have been freed from the penalty that my sin demanded. The Lord Jesus, the Christ paid it all. I am free. Secondly, I have been freed from the temptation to sin. The Spirit, in writing the Law upon my heart, has given me the power to choose not to sin. (Jeremiah 31:33)

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**Friday, 14 December 2018** 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

*But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

The overarching gift of the Spirit is not the list of 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, but is the transformation into the image of the Lord. The subset is proper and necessary, but the goal is to become Christlike in all aspect of my life.

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**Saturday, 15 December 2018** 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

*For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.*

A most exciting couple of sentences. It had never occurred to me that various troubles and challenges are not to be

feared, God has given me the Spirit as His guarantee that He will never leave me nor forsake me. I realized earlier in this study that the presence of the Spirit is the guarantee of my salvation, but this is another matter. The presence of the Spirit is my assurance that the LORD, God, the Almighty is walking with me through every day to day challenge. Praise the LORD!

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**Lord's Day, 16 December 2018 Psalm 119:165**

Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

This is a day for testing this; I do love Your Law, I love You, I love the Word, I love living in the Kingdom—I have perfect and sufficient helps. Praise You, My Lord and Master. Keep my feet from stumbling over the Evil One's wiles.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*December 10-16, 2018*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: *Philippians 1:3-6***

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

LORD, one of my problems is not lacking confidence that You will carry the work You have begun through the [congregation] to completion. Nor is it remembering to pray for the [congregation] when I pray. No, it is remembering to pray without ceasing.

My prayer for myself and for my fellow saints is that we become saints of prayer; that we spend more time on our knees praying and less time on our feet doing and that we pray with joy for the partnership that You have formed among us. *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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