

Monday, 24 December 2018 Galatians 4:6-7

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

1 John 3:1 *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

This precious privilege, to address the Creator of the Universe as Abba, Father is the stamp of sonship. We are accepted into the family and accorded the right to direct the head of the family as Father. This right is the certification that we know Him, and He knows us.

Tuesday, 25 December 2018 Galatians 4:28-29

Merry Christmas to all as we join together to remember the incarnation of the Son of God as the Son of Man. Remember also that we begin that countdown to the Easter morning and the glorious shout "He is risen, He is risen indeed."

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.

Isn't this interesting? I have never considered the relationship between Esau and Issac as being a prophetic indication of the relationship between today's culture and the Church as it counter-culturally should be. Is this a sign of the times as we continue to move into a post-Christendom world?

Wednesday, 26 December 2018 Galatians 5:5-6

For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

The goal of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now is to achieve that life of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17)' The road to that goal is through the guidance of the Spirit in walking out our faith in servanthood love (Gr. agape)

Thursday, 27 December 2018 Galatians 5:16-18

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

There is so much sound direction packed into this short verse. It is not just walking with the Spirit; it is also the implied reminder that when we forget to walk with the Spirit, we need to get ourselves back to the sheltering arms. ASAP! I wouldn't dream of going out for the mail in the middle of a driving sleet storm without being appropriately dressed. Why would I consider going out into the world without the company of the Holy Spirit to protect and guide me?

Friday, 28 December 2018 Galatians 5:16-18

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The battle that rages within me; the conflict between the desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit; it is my choice which selects the victor in each battle. I choose to disobey, even knowing the consequences, or to obey, recognizing the blessing that will be mine through a closer relationship with my Lord and Savior.

Saturday, 29 December 2018 Galatians 5:16-18

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The image that comes to mind is that of a mountain climber attempting an unassisted climb of Half Dome

without robes, pitons, carabiners and barefoot. How far would he get before the SPLAT? I cannot, not a chance, of living a life obedient to the Law of God without the constant guidance of the Holy Spirit. He is my entire set of climbing equipment, enabling me to surmount the temptations of the flesh. Thank You, Jesus, for bringing the Comforter and Helper to me.

Lord's Day, December 2018 Psalm 119:4-8

You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

Lord, hold me tight in the circle of Your enveloping Word. To walk in Your Ways, that your Ways would be my ways, that I would not stray from the boundaries of Your Ways, that Your Ways would be a Land of Praise and Thanksgiving; bless me, Lord, as I seek to walk along the King's Highway. Help me, Lord.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



December 24-30, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Forgive us, LORD, when we succumb to the sin of anxiety, to that grievous sin that represents trust in our own efforts rather than trusting in Your Word.

LORD, You have sent us out to carry the message of the peace of God into all the corners of the kingdom of man. We come to You seeking that guidance and discernment that will empower us to reach all those You have entrusted to our care and ministry; depending totally upon Your promise to guard our hearts and minds in You. *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; 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:

Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc.
PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452 or to prior@ailbe.org

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