

Monday, 7 January 2019 Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

The stones for Solomon's temple were cut and shaped at the quarry (1 Kings 6:7), shaped precisely to fit in the walls of the temple exactly where they were needed. I can almost hear the click as each stone slipped into its intended place in the structure. So it is with each one of us, We have been shaped and trimmed to fit precisely into a specific location in the holy temple of the LORD, God, the Almighty. There is a click, an aha, an 'I'm home' as He slides us into that place prepared for us before the beginning of time. Ref Psalm 139

Tuesday, 8 January 2019 Ephesians 3:4-6

When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The LORD, God, the Almighty promised Abram that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him (Gen 13:1-3) This is the fulfillment of that promise. The Spirit is the messenger of the invitation to join the family of God, the invitation to all to enter into the blessing promised to Abram.

Wednesday, 9 January 2019 Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Both Greek words, translated here as strength in vv16,18, carry a sense of bringing vigor and competency to the believer. It is an equipping through the power of the Spirit to enable us to utilize the fullness of God entirely.

There is a painting, hanging in front of me as I write. An

expressive scene of the ruins of an Irish monastery as one looks out towards several high crosses on the banks of a river. Exquisite detail, beautiful lights, and shadows, a moving scene, painted by a master of his craft. Bob Todd had the competency to utilize the talents he had been given.

Likewise, the Spirit empowers, enables me to apply the love of Christ to every aspect of my life so that it will tell the story of the love of the LORD, God, the Almighty as it redeems and restores me.

Thursday, 10 January 2019 Ephesians 4:1-3

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

How eager am I to maintain the unity of the Spirit or would I rather win an argument? Am I willing to bear with a brother in love (agape)? Or is my pride more precious to me than serving him? I need to learn to start each discussion of a theological point by asking myself how the outcome will affect my walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ. If the issue is one of my conviction that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, that no one comes to the Father except through Him, I better stick to my guns. Anything less? Perhaps the unity of the Spirit is more important than where I stand on an issue.

Friday, 11 January 2019 Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

One God and Father, one Lord, one Spirit! One Trinity! All were calling the one Body to enter into full communion with the Godhead. The Spirit in His role as Helper, Comforter, Encourager, labors incessantly to bring me into the Image of Christ, one step at a time.

Saturday, 12 January 2019 Ephesians 4:29-32

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

It is interesting that this is the only passage in the NT that refers

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



January 7-14, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Colossians 1:3-8

We always thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

LORD, thank You for the {congregation} and the calling you have given to us to be beacons of hope through the word of truth. Continue to use us so that the Gospel will bear fruit throughout the world. We pray for each of our brothers and sisters who serve You in hostile environments, whether in foreign lands or in the secular culture around us.

We pray for our leaders and shepherds, the ones who have been so faithful in encouraging us to understand Your grace in all its truth and to carry that understanding into our Personal Mission Fields. Continue to provide for them and their families. *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

The Fellowship of Ailbe, (www.ailbe.org)
Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.

to grieving any member of the Godhead. That confirms my conviction that the Holy Spirit is the one who serves to communicate between the LORD, God, the Almighty and the people of the LORD. It is a communication channel that conveys both pleasure and disappointment to those who have named the Name of Jesus as their Lord and Savior. It should be frightening to those who feel that the Word of God is a buffet table to pick their favorite goodies from.

It is a solemn and dangerous thing to grieve the Holy Spirit; in so doing you grieve all members of the Godhead.

Lord's Day, 13 January 2019 Psalm 119:21

You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments.

Lord, forgive me for I am often one of those insolent ones, wandering away from Your righteous Law. Sometimes through thoughtlessness but more often through willful disobedience. Lord, discipline me and teach me that I might become more fully a man of God.