

**Monday, 14 January 2019** Ephesians 5:15-21

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

I wonder if this entire passage depends upon my being filled with the Spirit? The Spirit is going to guide me into the best use of my time as I make wise decisions. My life will be formed by the Psalms, by hymns, by spiritual songs, by an attitude with is one of thanksgiving and praise. My relationships with other saints will be shaped by submission to them as an act of reverence to Christ.

---

**Tuesday, 15 January 2019** Ephesians 6:13-18

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

What is a sword? A weapon. Offensive, defensive or both, a broad variety of designs from claymore to rapier. One universal characteristic is that each type needs the hands of a skilled swordsman to be effective. The Word, the sword of the Spirit, is sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb 4:12), but is useless, if I am not intimately familiar with it. I need to study my weapon, to know when to use the smashing power of the claymore or the delicate piercing of the rapier.

Praise the LORD. The Spirit is a powerful teacher and coach.

---

**Wednesday, 16 January 2019** Ephesians 6:13-18

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming

darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Two significant occurrences of 'all.' "At all times" and "with all prayer and supplication;" summarizing 1 Thess. 5:16-18 and Phil. 4:4-7 with an exhortation to rejoice always thrown in for good measure. If the Holy Spirit guides my prayer, I will always start with rejoicing and glorifying the LORD, God, the Almighty. There's plenty of time for my anxieties and supplications.

---

**Thursday, 17 January 2019** Philippians 1:18-22a

What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For, to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me.

It is most interesting that Paul links the prayers of the saints through the power of the Holy Spirit in a life or death situation. There is no hint of the self-centered Saul of Tarsus, a Hebrew of the Hebrews. No, he comes to the saints of Phillipi to lift him up for the strength to continue his witness in either outcome. One of the lessons to me is to be open and willing to seek the support of the congregation with whom I worship. If the Apostle Paul needs to ask for support, what makes me think I can manage on my own?

---

**Friday, 18 January 2019** Philippians 2:1-2

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Again, this passage as others looked at before, focuses on the centrality of the Spirit between the LORD, God, the Almighty and His Bride in the yet to be raptured. For example, anytime another saint and I are not of one mind on an issue or a course of action; the Holy Spirit needs to be approached for direction. His counsel needs to be sought in agape, not in an attitude of "Lord, show my brother where he is wrong."

---

**Saturday, 19 January 2019** Philippians 3:3

*For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—*

My worship must be guided by the Spirit, not, as is so prevalent in many churches, by what is attractive and will suck an audience in. I must remember that Worship of the LORD, God, the Almighty must be directed from me to Him. Thanksgivings have an essential place in a time of Worship but in a position behind a time of acknowledging the worth of the LORD, acknowledging who He is and reciting His infinite values. A time of confession is often overlooked in popular church services, at best replaced by a public confession. What has happened to a time of falling on our knees, publicly confessing that we have sinned against the LORD in word and deed? Then a time of thanksgivings, sharing the many ways the LORD has blessed us in every aspect of our lives, appropriately placed after praise and confession.

---

**Lord's Day, 20 January 2019 Psalm 119:26**

*When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes!*

This is an exciting sequence, Lord. The first step is for me to recognize and confess the error of my ways. Then, once I am fully comprehending my need, You will answer through Your statutes, Your Word to instruct and lead me. Give me an understanding of my need for forgiveness and teaching.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*January 14-20, 2019*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Colossians 1:9-14**

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

LORD, our prayer this week is that each of us will be fervent in prayer for our congregation; that we will be constant in seeking the transformation of our minds that will enable us to recognize Your good and perfect will. We pray this so that we will live lives worthy of You and please You in every way, that we will bear fruit in every way as we grow in knowledge of You.

We pray that our fellowship will be strengthened with all power so that we may have great endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to You for qualifying us to join in the inheritance of the saints in the Kingdom of light.

We praise and thank you that we have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of Your Son whom You love, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 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. All Scripture is from the ESV unless otherwise noted. 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](mailto:prior@ailbe.org)

The Fellowship of Ailbe, ([www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org))

Realizing the presence, promise and power  
of the Kingdom of God.