

Monday, 28 January 2019 1 Timothy 3:16

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

"vindicated by the Spirit," I have not been keeping track of the various Scriptures that are concerned with the role of the Holy Spirit as the guarantor of my relationship with the LORD, God, the Almighty. But there a significant number, each with an addition to my understanding. To vindicate is to confirm, to substantiate that my absolution is complete and valid. An obsolete definition is "to deliver," and I find that to be very appropriate and comforting. The Spirit is the member of the Godhead, charged with the outworking of my salvation; the director of my transformation, my sanctification.

Tuesday, 29 January 2019 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

It is no surprise that the world has rejected the Word of God and turned to deceitful spirits and the teaching of demons as the guide for their lives, but heart-wrenching when those who claim to be Christians do likewise. There is a somewhat perverse comfort in recognizing that Paul warns of this in the later times, but at the same time, deep sorrow for those who have been led astray. As entire denominations reject various teachings as no longer applicable to their faith and in so doing, reject the work of Christ and grieve the Holy Spirit.

It is the Christian equivalent of the Bataan Death March as the leaders of these groups lead their flocks into damnation by denying the faith. I am not advocating that someone's salvation can be lost, but am raising a doubt that it ever existed when a Christian, for example, claims Christ as Lord and Savior in one breath and advocate abortion in the next.

Wednesday, 30 January 2019 2 Timothy 1:13-14

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who

dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

The words of Paul are the words of the Holy Spirit transmitted through him to me. I need to turn to the Spirit continuously for guidance in applying this good deposit to all aspects of my life. I don't see any place where I am allowed to insert myself as a translator between the words of the Scriptures and my implementation of them in my life.

Thursday, 31 January 2019 Titus 3:3-7

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hidden, at least to me, in this passage is a powerful statement of the relationships within the Godhead. God the Father as the source of all goodness and loving kindness; God the Son as the agent of salvation through His mercy; God the Spirit as the agent of regeneration and renewal. I love a realization of completeness, rather like the click of the last piece going into a jigsaw puzzle and the picture is revealed in all its beauty. These few words have done this for me. The click as I begin to see and appreciate the completeness and interdependence of the Godhead in the restoration of me to Them.

Friday, 1 February 2019 Hebrews 2:1-4

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

There is a spirit of consistency in this passage, a sense of cooperation as the Three work together to restore the Creation to its original pristine state. One of the things that strike me is that there is no indication of micromanagement. Another way to understand this passage is that it indicates a complete, and instantaneous awareness of the other members of the Godhead.

Betty and I had our first date 66 years ago, but are still frequently surprised when each of us is thinking along the same lines concerning a particular situation. The relationship within the Godhead is perfect. It is impossible for me to grasp the totality of the relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is no "I don't know, did you think about this aspect" in the Godhead.

Saturday, 2 February 2019 Hebrews 3:7-9

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.

Many of the flock goes through a "forty years in the wilderness," a period where we refuse the call of the Spirit, where we are convinced of our and are sure that we are pretty good guys no matter who says what. But in every case, the Spirit has to break that stubborn will and bring us to a conviction of our filth in God's eyes. Oh and then the joy as I enter into the glory of the Kingdom in the here and now.

Lord's Day, 3 February 2019 Psalm 119:49-50

Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction that your promise gives me life.

You have promised that You will never leave me nor forsake me. This must include leading me to step by step into a deeper relationship with You, bringing me closer to Your heart and will. Help me now, Lord, to develop an attitude of unceasing prayer. This I must do! But I am a failure in this without You. I can not/will not make an effort, just halfhearted attempts to placate You. Give me the burning and the fervor to be with You always.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



January 28-February 3, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [

Thank You, LORD, for the Fellowship of Ailbe; for this band of brothers drawn together by a mutual desire to advance Your Kingdom wherever You have placed us. Thank You for these tasks which You laid out for us as our way of life. Thank You for Your love that prompts us to respond in kind and is the source of the hope, the certain expectation of Your imminent return, that enables us to endure. *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. 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:

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