

Monday, 25 February 2019 Revelation 2:26-29

The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

The letter to the first three churches were instructions to those with the ears and the willingness to hear. Now, with the fourth, the emphasis begins to change from not The only hearing to hearing and acting (he who has an ear or conquers). The implication is that if I am genuinely listening, i.e., with the ears to hear, I will put those words into practice and that they will become the guide for my life, i.e., I have become a conqueror. The first impact is that I will become an authority over the nations, called to pronounce and act upon the Word of the LORD. Not now, heaven forbid, but my obedience will have that result if I am obedient to the end.

Tuesday, 26 February 2019 Revelation 3:5-6

The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Look at this passage and the next two. The image that comes to mind is the carrot dangled before a reluctant donkey. Truly a golden holy carrot but what to look forward to as my listening obedience, if it happens, will be acknowledged by a garment of purest white, eternally written in the Book of Life and an introduction to God, the Father and His cohort as one of the listening and willing ones.

Holy Spirit, through Your guidance, may it be so!

Wednesday, 27 February 2019 Revelation 3:12-13

The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

I think it is very wrong to regard these statements as being descriptions of rewards for that implies that they are the results of my actions. Not so for they should be seen as the descriptions of one who has been accepted as a member of the family of the Most High, the Bride of Christ. A pillar of the temple of God, forever present to the Presence. I see the name

of God and the name of the new Jerusalem as being analogous to the return address on the upper left-hand corner of an envelope. As that label indicates the place of origin, so His name and New Jerusalem indicate the place of origin for me.

Thursday, 28 February 2019 Revelation 3:21-22

The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

The indications of membership in the Bride of Christ sitting at His side on His throne, announcing to all creation that I have been accepted as an authority to manage the creation as He directs. I along with countless others will be the LORD, God, the Almighty's majordomos.

Friday, 1 March 2019 Revelation 4:1-11

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

I have read this passage countless times and never cease to be

amazed at the detailed description of the throne room of the LORD, God, the Almighty. It invokes sight, sound, and intellect, but fails to describe adequately. The failure is not John's but mine as one who is continuing to grow in his faith. John says that he heard a voice like a trumpet and at once he was in the Spirit. I'm waiting.

Until then, I struggle to envision a rainbow that has the appearance of an emerald. I've seen rainbows that took my breath away as I adsorbed their colors; I've seen the emeralds in the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London. But I cannot conflate the two. Someday, I will exclaim in awe, "Neither could John." The human language is inadequate until it is imbued with the mind of Christ.

Saturday, 2 March 2019 Revelation 14:12-13

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

Am I correct in reading this passage that those who die in the Lord are blessed? Then why have I never heard this passage preached at the funeral of a saint? Do we really, honestly believe/trust/commit/obey/have faith in this promise? Why can't we believe/etc.? That our separation is but for a moment? The Spirit tells us that our loved ones are resting from their labors and by implication, my turn is coming. Pick up where their deeds were and get with the program.

Lord's Day, 3 March 2019 Psalm 119:81-82

My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?"

These open questions, Lord, that nag and annoy. The questions that deal with the genuine aspects of life, from housing to parenting. How do we minister to those You have entrusted to us? Their needs are both in the spiritual and in the natural; I need to be there for them in all venues. I long for Your promise of wisdom and understanding. How do I lead these precious lambs along the King's Highway?

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



February 25-March 3, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 5:28
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all to whom we minister, to our entire Personal Mission Field. May our every endeavor be directed to bring all those that You have given to us into the fold, to bring about the discipling of all nations as You have directed. *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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