

Monday, 13 May 2019 Psalms 5:7

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.

It is David's awareness and understanding of the steadfast love of the LORD, God, the Almighty that enables him to enter into the LORD's presence. It is the empowerment of that steadfast love is an element of the Fear of the LORD. The Hebrew word translated as fear would be more accurately expressed as reverential fear.

Tuesday, 14 May 2019 Psalms 9:19-20

Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail; let the nations be judged before you! Put them in fear, O LORD! Let the nations know that they are but men! Selah

Here the Hebrew word would be better translated as dread or terror. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:31 Yes, there is an overpowering element of dread or terror, especially for those who do not acknowledge Him as a factor in their lives.

Wednesday, 15 May 2019 Psalms 15:1, 4a Psalms 15:1-5

A Psalm of David. O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change; who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

Isn't that interesting. My criteria for choosing close associates have to be drawn from the pool of those who demonstrate a reverential fear of the LORD. Look at the list of behaviors. It is neither exhaustive nor absolute but is indicative of a transformed heart.

Thursday, 16 May 2019 Psalms 19:7-11

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony

of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

To live within the Law of the LORD is to live in reverential Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty; in the acknowledgment that it is complete and without flaw. As we study His Law and take it into our hearts as a way of life, we draw closer to Him and begin to discover that His Creation works according to His Law.

Friday, 17 May 2019 Psalms 22:23-25

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

How am I called to demonstrate the reverential Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty? By praising Him! By declaring His worth! By searching the Creation for signs of His creativity! By recognizing the image of God is in all men!

I have been considering the grackle, a most ugly bird with a very annoying voice; it empties the feeders that have been filled with choice seed for these flashes of color and song that fill my yard. Why the grackle, LORD? Is it to teach me that all of Creation is beautiful in Your eyes? Maybe that I am called to love the unlovable?

Saturday, 18 May 2019 Psalms 22:23-25

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

We are to praise Him in our assemblies, and we are to lift up the Name which is above all other names. We must never forget that the object of our congregating is to worship the LORD, God, the Almighty. We are called to declare His Worth.

Lord's Day, 19 May 2019 Psalm 119:169

Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word!

I do not understand why one of my children divorced. Yes, I know that it is a Sin and a complete disavowal of Your commandments but where and how? What is my duty here? Help me, Lord, give me peace in Your plan for them, the children and for us.

Voices Together is available as two annual volumes of meditations based on Psalm 1 through 75 and Psalm 76 through 150. A companion book, *The Love Story*, is a 22 week series of meditations based on Psalm 119. They are available through the Fellowship of Ailbe book store at www.ailbe.org/bookstore/christian-discipline

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



May 13-19, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Titus 3:15b

Grace be with you all.

A poignant prayer, Lord, that Your grace would pour down over the [congregation] and all associated with it. We pray that grace not only for us but for all with whom we contact. May the Spirit move through us in power to declare the grace, mercy, and peace of Your Kingdom to all.

We pray, not only for the aggregate ministry of the [congregation] but also for our individual ministries in the vineyards where you have planted us. *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:

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.