

Monday, 17 June 2019 Psalms 49:16-20

Be not afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house increases. For when he dies, he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him. For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed—and though you get praise when you do well for yourself—his soul will go to the generation of his fathers, who will never again see light. Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish.

It is so easy to read this passage and nod in total agreement and with a vow of obedience. So easy to say, "Yes, Lord, I know that I am living on the righteousness, peace, and joy of the Kingdom of God on earth." and then to find myself envying my neighbor who just returned from an opulent vacation in Upper Slobovia.

Help me, Lord, to see every aspect of my life here as more needed lessons in the School of Trust in the LORD, God, the Almighty. You do supply all my needs as I learn to keep my priorities in line with Your Word. (Matt 6:33-34)

Tuesday, 18 June 2019 Psalms 52:6-9

The righteous shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him, saying, "See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!" But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.

Maybe it is not appropriate to laugh in the face of an acquaintance who does not trust in the LORD, but there is comfort in being reminded that He is faithful. A life actively lived in the Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty is a life lived in peace and joy.

Wednesday, 19 June 2019 Psalms 55:1-7, 16-18 *To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David. Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy! Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint, and I moan, because of the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. For they drop trouble upon me, and in anger, they bear a grudge against me. My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me. And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest; yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; Selah But I call to God, and the LORD will save me. Evening and morning, and at noon, I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears*

my voice. He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me.

I need to learn from David for he did not hesitate to raise his voice in complaint. He knew that he could speak openly to the LORD, and He would hear. He knew that the LORD would bring him the strength to walk through the oppression of the wicked.

I need to be outgoing and forthright with my problems. Whom do I think I'm kidding, hiding my hurts and complaints behind a show of stoicism? The only one I'm fooling is myself, and I can't fix my problems.

Thursday, 20 June 2019 Psalms 55:19, 22-23

God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, Selah because they do not change and do not fear God.

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.

The Day is coming, coming soon when the wrath of the LORD, God, the Almighty will be unleashed against those who have chosen to reject the Fear of the LORD.

However, those who have put their trust in the LORD as the guiding light for their lives have nothing to fear. His promise that He will never leave nor forsake His people. (Heb 13:5)

Friday, 21 June 2019 Psalms 56:1-4

To the choirmaster: according to The Dove on Far-off Terebinths. A Miktam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath. Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly. When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

It gets overwhelming as I work through the Psalms, and not even 2/5s through the collection, how many times the Psalmists were assured that they (and I) have nothing to fear from the efforts of man. The question is asked over and over, "What can flesh do to me?"

They only answer that truly fits is that the LORD know how weak my flesh is and that it will need to be reassured frequently.

Saturday, 22 June 2019 Psalms 60:1-4

To the choirmaster: according to Shushan Eduth. A Miktam of David; for instruction; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-

zobah, and when Joab on his return struck down twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt. O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; oh, restore us. You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open; repair its breaches, for it totters. You have made your people see hard things; you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger. You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that they may flee to it from the bow. Selah

In spite of all David's successes and Joab's victory in the Valley of Salt, David realizes that they have been rejected by the LORD. The LORD's anger is a frightening thing; the land quakes, the people see hard things, could these be things that the eyes of man are not equipped to view?

Lord's Day, 23 June 2019 Psalm 119:36

Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!

Lord, have I placed selfish gain over any aspect of my various ministries? The selfish gain comes in many attractive disguises. Everything from the donations that are made to the prison ministry to recognition as an active senior. It can become challenging to give You the glory when the Evil One points out the sops to my pride. I don't know. Teach me, Holy Spirit.

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VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



June 17-23, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Lord Jesus, we come to you this week, filled with thanksgiving and praise, hearts overflowing in gratitude for we are Yours.

May there be a continuous outpouring of that certain expectation that Your Spirit is ever present to guide us; leading us to pray for and bless those who persecute and curse us.

We confess that we are lacking, failing to obey the dictum to pray without ceasing. We plead, dearest LORD, that we will be so drawn to You that every breath we take, every heart beat, will rise to you as a prayer of worship and praise. May our first thought of the morning rise to You in worship, our every thought during the day bring glory to Your Name, our last thought of the day be to remember each blessing of the day and lift our thanksgivings to You.

We pray this in the power of Your Name *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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