

Monday, 19 August 2019 Psalm 64:1-4

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from dread of the enemy. Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, from the throng of evildoers, who whet their tongues like swords, who aim bitter words like arrows, shooting from ambush at the blameless, shooting at him suddenly and without fear.

Preserve my life from dread. Preserve my life from the fear of what "they" can do to me, from being consumed with imaginings of the consequences of dire circumstances. Keep me focused on You and on the realization that if You are for me, who can be against me. The dread of the future must not be a factor in my life, and through the power of Your Holy Spirit, it will not.

Tuesday, 20 August 2019 Psalm 64:5-9

They hold fast to their evil purpose; they talk of laying snares secretly, thinking, "Who can see them?" They search out injustice, saying, "We have accomplished a diligent search." For the inward mind and heart of a man are deep! But God shoots his arrow at them; they are wounded suddenly. They are brought to ruin, with their own tongues turned against them; all who see them will wag their heads. Then all mankind fears; they tell what God has brought about and ponder what he has done.

Lord, there are so many of us who hide behind a faithful attitude and pious demeanor when in the company of fellow professing believers but are one with the world whenever we are in the presence of non-believing friends, family, and acquaintances. What a disgrace to Your name, what shame to the work of the Cross, what denial of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Bring Your Church to its knees in repentance, seeking Your forgiveness and restoration to Your presence. Lord, that those of us whom You have called to minister to Your people be faithful shepherds and true to Your message of grace and mercy.

Wednesday, 21 August 2019 Psalm 64:10

Let the righteous one rejoice in the LORD and take refuge in him! Let all the upright in heart exult!

How good it is to know that I have complete and total

refuge in You, a cause for rejoicing. And one of the great blessings is to know that as I draw closer to You, as my heart is transformed more and more into Your image, I have more and more reason for exultation. Praise You, my Lord.

Thursday, 22 August 2019 Psalms 119:33

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

Perseverance, Lord, perseverance. Teach me the perseverance to follow the way of Your statutes to the very end. Teach me to keep my focus on the there and then as I walk through the here and now.

Open the eyes of my heart to the unseen riches of Your Presence in the now. I don't want to look back at the end of my life here and realize that I missed so much of the goodness that You offered to me every day.

Friday, 23 August 2019 Psalm 119:37

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,/ Look full in His wonderful face/ And the things of earth will grow strangely dim/ in the light of his glory and grace."

So true, Lord, yet sometimes so difficult. Satan waves a subtle flag of distractions before me, sometimes just with a promise of a few moments of relaxation or with the indulgence of a bit of grumbling about a problem I'm having. And there I go, lost my focus, forgot my purpose here, off on my own path and forgetting where life truly is.

Turn my eyes, Lord, full-on Your wonderful face. And teach me to keep them there!

Saturday, 24 August 2019 Psalm 119:40

Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!

To know You and Your Father, that is life -- life in Your Presence, in Your Kingdom, in the here and now and in the yet to come. A life of shalom and righteousness; a life of walking with You, communing in the cool of the evening. Draw me closer, Lord; I long for the fullness of this life.

Lord's Day, 25 August 2019, Exodus 20:1-2, 4-6

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ... "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), Exodus 34:14

Thank You, my Lord, that Your name is Jealous. What other god could be so solicitous of his people's welfare that he would demand total obeisance and complete dedication? You know what Your people need and have made provision and it is all contained in the scope and depth of Your word. If I follow and obey, You show Your love to the generations that follow after me. Praise You for Your Love and Mercy.

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VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



August 19-25, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 1:18a, 22-23

I pray also that (incomparably great power) ... And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Lord, we pray that we, Your Church, will be the vessel through which that incomparably great power will be brought to bear for Your glory and for the enhancement of the presence, promise and power of the Kingdom. Let us always recognize that we are Your body, the fullness of You in every way.

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.

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