Monday, 20 April 2015

Psalm 150:3-6

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Don't wait, let the praises of the LORD be ever in your throat and a two-edged sword in your hands. Praise the LORD. Praise Him with your entire being.

This ends the third series of meditations on the Psalms. While the Psalms have been and will continue to be an important part of my daily devotionals, I feel the Spirit moving me in a new direction concerning Voices Together. That will begin tomorrow morning.

Tuesday, 21 April 2015

Mark 9:23-24 And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

This short story has resonated with me for many years; the father's anguish and my own as I struggle with unbelief. How can I overcome unbelief in my own strength? I can't! Again and again, I am drawn to that precious verse in Psalm 119:11 *Your word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.*

I invite you to join me in the process of hiding relevant Scriptures in our hearts and examining them for understanding and insight as led by the Spirit.

Wednesday, 22 April 2015 Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Trust, trust, trust, trust--Got it, John? This is complete, total commitment to the LORD, God the Almighty. No holding back, no saving something for a rainy day. This is a willingness to depend on the LORD, God the Almighty to direct my path, choosing which way to go, how to proceed, what methods to use, everything.

Lord, strip me of pride in my own capabilities and talents, reveal to me those areas that I still reserve to my own judgments. Lead me into Your understanding.

Thursday, 23 April 2015 Joshua 1:5

No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

OK, so what's my problem? The Almighty, the Omnipotent One has said He will never leave me and He will not forsake me. Yet I persist, I insist, that I, a finite mortal, is better equipped to manage and direct my own affairs? Is not that the ultimate hubris? I fell for Satan's Lie when he told Eve that she would know good from evil and be like God. Does anyone hear Old Nick snickering in the wings every time I I get into my 'I'm god' frame of mind?

Forgive me, Lord and lead me in the Way I should go.

Friday, 24 April 2015 Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Do I hear that thunderous, "*TRUST ME*"? Am I willing to trust what I do not understand? And why is it that there are indeed things that I don't understand, for example, electricity, but that does not stop me from flipping a switch when I need light?

You have promised and You cannot lie. You are the Omnipotent One and cannot fail. You are the very Ultimate

Provider, the only Trustworthy One. You are the One who loves me and nurtures me. Praise You, LORD, God the Almighty.

Saturday, 25 April 2015 Matthew 9:28-30a

When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened.

Jesus asked if they believed He could give them sight, nothing else. They gave a very simple answer, no long dissertation regarding the extent or depth of their belief but their faith was at least the size of a mustard seed. They were healed according to their faith.

Lord, You ask me if I believe, the same simple question. Sometimes the answer is, Yes" but sometimes it is "Yes, but..." Continue to lead me towards that, "Yes, Lord, yes" that marks the totally committed, trusting child of God.

Lord's Day, 26 April 2015

Psalm 119:58

I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.

Is this a spot where my understanding of what the psalmist is saying is in error? It appears to me that I need to be praising You for Your grace and mercy; I need to be in an attitude of gratitude; I need to be on my knees, raising my hands, crying out to You in repentance and sorrow. You are indeed, the Christ, the Son of the living God.

VOICES TOGETHER Daily Meditations from the Psalms



April 20-26, 2015

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It 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.

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