

Monday, 27 July 2015

2 Corinthians 7:1

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

Another instruction, calling for our obedient participation response. To cleanse myself requires that I pay particular attention to those portions of my life that exhibit defilement, and scrub those elements in the restorative power of prayer and study of the Living Word. The analogy of using prayer to invoke the Holy Spirit as the Lord's scrub brush Who uses the Word to cleanse and restore is not too far-fetched.

Tuesday, 28 July 2015

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Here's another one of those active participation directions that Paul slips in from time to time. We use the weapons furnished by God's Armourer to destroy arguments and take every thought captive. And like every soldier since the beginning of armies, we have a responsibility to become adept in the use of those weapons. To become adept, we must employ all the spiritual disciplines to become an effective Christian soldier. Here's a link to the Personal Discipleship Inventory guide to help you in the process.

Wednesday, 29 July 2015

Galatians 3:24-26

So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Did you ever find that upon reading a passage, one that you have read many times before with a rather, "Oh, that's nice and pass on to the next verse" reaction? I know I have in the past read this verse and not been as startled as I was a few minutes ago by it.

It was the realization that it is through faith in Christ that I have become a son of God. Then I had to ask myself what the phrase "through faith" meant? This has to be something more profound than a casual claim of belief before the church elders, and it is. It is a complete trust in and total reliance upon the promises of God to

govern and direct **ALL** aspects of my life.

Got it! Now lets get started (see yesterday).

Thursday, 30 July 2015

Galatians 5:19-26 [1]

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

I do have to wonder what Paul felt he left out that required the 'and so forth' at the end of that exhaustive list. Does that describe the culture in which I am called to minister? Where does the ministry process begin? It begins with a fierce and relentless examination of my soul before God. It is a crying out to the Holy Spirit to reveal those areas of my life that are not in conformance with the Law of God. It is a willingness to repent and be transformed by the renewal of my mind, so that I may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

Friday, 31 July 2015

Galatians 5:19-26 [2]

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Here's the end game, the goal of utilizing the spiritual disciplines, the Kingdom life of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, the life of living in the promises. This is the life that will lead others to ask me to explain the hope that lies within me and to be able to do so with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

Saturday, 1 August 2015
Galatians 5:19-26 [3]

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**

Catch the past tense in that first sentence highlighted? Have crucified? Not any wiggle room there. Is this what Jesus meant when He said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.(Luke 9:23)? it certainly has to be a daily process for me. How about you?

Look at the second sentence. It reminds me of watching a precision drill team demonstrate their talent. Or of the comment I have heard from Marines, "When a DI says jump, ask how high on the way up" Obedience!

Now back to that last sentence: surely Paul didn't think he had to remind me, of all people, to not be conceited, not to provoke a fellow saint or suffer from envy? I probably haven't had to struggle with those for maybe the last hour, but when I have to spend some time with a fellow believer, watch out. Old Nick never misses an opportunity to spoil my witness.

Lord's Day, 2 August 2015

Psalm 119:2-3

Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

The key here, this morning, is seeking You with a whole heart. Whole can mean entire and it can mean sound. My desire, Lord, is to walk in Your ways, searching after You with all my being and determined to do no wrong but to live in the fullness of Your Word. Help me, Lord.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms



July 27-August 2, 2015

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms 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:

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