

*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.*

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*Monday, 13 February 2017*

*Jeremiah 13:24-25*

*I will scatter you like chaff driven by the wind from the desert. This is your lot, the portion I have measured out to you, declares the LORD, because you have forgotten me and trusted in lies.*

LORD, what is in store for Your church in this country as we continue to defy You and put our trust in the promises of Washington and Montpelier? Will our witness be as effective as wind-driven chaff? Will we be as cowards, cowering with heads under pillows at the slightest hints of resistance to the Good News?

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*Tuesday, 14 February 2017*

*Jeremiah 17:5-6*

*Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.*

A friend and I went out into the New Mexico desert one day to search for artifacts in an abandoned Indian village. I, fresh from the lush suburbs of Chicago, had no comprehension of

the raw in-hospitality of a desert. I could not comprehend how that village, estimated to be a population around 2000 people, survived. No water for miles! No wild life to hunt and feed on! Totally nothing but cactus and scrub bushes. An almost perfect simile for a life which is turned from the LORD and trusts in the faithlessness of man.

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*Wednesday, 15 February 2017*

*Jeremiah 17:7-8*

*"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."*

What a contrast, the barren Chihuahua Desert vs. the lush fields of Iowa where I was raised. Grandpa's farm was truly a land of milk and honey--gallons of fresh milk from his Guernsey herd, honey from the beehives and apples from the orchards.

A rich land vs. a fierce land. Life of righteousness, peace and joy in the Kingdom of Heaven vs. life of anxiety and uncertainty in Satan's realm. My choice.

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*Thursday, 16 February 2017*

*Jeremiah 22:3-5*

*Thus says the LORD: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. For if you will indeed obey this word, then there shall enter the gates of this house kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their servants and their people. But if you will not obey these words, I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation.*

Another of Jeremiah's 'either or' examples of how our life in the Kingdom is to be lived. Obedience and result vs. disobedience and result. How will I approach the working out of my salvation (Philippians 2:12-13)?

Am I going to love my neighbor and express that love through a hands-on application to them? I need to thoughtfully and prayerfully apply myself to all my interactions with my Personal Mission Field on a daily basis.

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Friday, 17 February 2017

Jeremiah 22:3-5

*Thus says the LORD: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. For if you will indeed obey this word, then there shall enter the gates of this house kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their servants and their people. But if you will not obey these words, I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation.*

The result of obedience? King Righteousness, King Peace, and King Joy taking residence in my soul, directing me in the way I should go? A life free from anxiety and worry?

Bring it on, LORD, God, the Almighty

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Saturday, 18 February 2017

Jeremiah 22:3-5

*Thus says the LORD: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. For if you will indeed obey this word, then there shall enter the gates of this house kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their servants and their people. But if you will not obey these words, I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation.*

The result of disobedience? A life wracked by worry and anxiety? A life spent in a spiritual Chihuahua desert? How can I expect that the LORD, God, the Almighty will answer my prayers and pleas when I refuse to obey and trust Him? I need to ask myself whether or not I am truly one of the sheep of His pasture if I refuse to trust Him in all things.

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Lord's Day, 19 February 2017 Psalm 119:133

*Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.*

O, Lord, that my daily walk would be one of glorifying You, seeking always to proclaim Your Kingdom and Your Goodness. Keep me from sin, keep me from straying, help me, Lord.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*February 13-19, 2017*

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been an ongoing search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the LORD, God, the Almighty.

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It 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](http://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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The Church at Prison, Inc.  
PO Box 8318  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

or at

The Fellowship of Ailbe, [voices@ailbe.org](mailto:voices@ailbe.org)  
Realizing the presence, promise and power  
of the Kingdom of God.

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\*LORD or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.