

Monday, 18 November 2019 Psalm 77:1-6

To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph. I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me. In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints. Selah You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. I consider the days of old, the years long ago. I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart." Then my spirit made a diligent search:

There are relationships in our lives, Lord, that we do not understand. Have we offended? Do we need to seek forgiveness? Are there acts of love and grace that we need to extend? Sins of omission or commission that we are guilty of and have been found wanting in loving our brothers? Let us not be found guilty of hindering the advance of the Kingdom.

Tuesday, 19 November 2019 Psalm 77:7-9

"Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" Selah

How good it is to remember Your work in our lives and to know that You have been watching over our steps all the days of our lives. Those early memories of learning to read through family prayers in the old KJV Bible. There it is, tattered with loose pages, but an Ebenezer to remind us of Your Goodness and Faithfulness.

Wednesday, 20 November 2019 Psalm 77:10-15

Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High." I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

Lord, lead us in the restoration of these relationships. Show us what steps and actions we need to take to be once again able to enjoy all the pleasures of kinship in the Body of Christ.

Help our spouses and us to remember and share the countless evidence of Your love in our lives together. Let this be our theme, Lord, to ponder upon and meditate on Your mighty deeds that have worked to make two one.

Thursday, 21 November 2019 Psalm 77:16-20

When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side. The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

You do lead Your people by the hand gently and securely through the wilderness and the sea on dry land. As we get ourselves into these entanglements, You are there to lift us and set our feet back on the straight and narrow path that leads to life in the Kingdom. Praise You, Lord, and Master of all.

Lord, bless those who vex us, bring showers of Your goodness upon them.

Friday, 22 November 2019

Psalm 119:97-102 Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.

We wish! We hunger for these statements to be true. Lord, when will we become so one with You that Your Word is our meditation all day long? We know that Your Instructions are always with us, but we don't always listen.

We do have more understanding than all the influences of the world -- when we meditate upon and consider Your testimonies. We do see the pitfalls of the age-old wisdom of the culture when measured against Your Wisdom -- if we do so!

Your Rules are our guide; they place our feet securely upon Your Path; they keep us from stumbling into evil and re-offending. You are ever at our side.

Saturday, 23 November 2019 Psalm 119:103-104

How sweet are your Words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your Precepts, I get understanding; therefore, I hate every false way.

Not cloying, Lord, but rich and nourishing with an aftertaste of joy, bringing Your peace to our souls. Your Words layout the Way Everlasting before us, warning against the rocks and roots that would cause us to stumble while illuminating life in Your Kingdom. Your Words bring wisdom and understanding; it is our

lamp and map, a very hedge about us in the presence of our enemies, keeping our feet from all false paths. Praise You, our Lord and Savior.

Lord's Day, November 2019

Exodus 20:1-2, 8

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. ... Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Isaiah 58:13-14 "If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Is there a fine line between spending Lord's Day afternoon in the garden because it needs to be weeded and spending that same afternoon nurturing and cherishing the plants and produce that the Lord has blessed us with? No, the line is not fine, it is broad, black and easily observable by us. Are we there because those weeds are getting ahead of us, and we didn't have or take the time during the week to get rid of those nuisances, so, forgive us, Lord, but Your Day is a weeding day. Or are we on our knees thanking the Lord for the life of each plant, anticipating the bounty that He will provide in the harvest, looking for the interplay between weed and plant to see the beauty of His creation? Do we see our gardens as places of communion with the Lord of the Creation to be savored for a time, or as places of drudgery that needs to be done so we can take a Sunday afternoon nap? One honors, one dishonors. It is our choice.

Voices Together is available as two annual volumes of meditations based on Psalm 1 through 75 and Psalm 76 through 150. A companion book, *The Love Story*, is a 22 week series of meditations based on Psalm 119. They are available through the Fellowship of Ailbe book store at www.ailbe.org/bookstore/christian-discipline

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



November 18-24, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank You, LORD, for the Fellowship of Ailbe; for this band of brothers drawn together by a mutual desire to advance Your Kingdom wherever You have placed us. Thank You for these tasks which You laid out for us as our way of life. Thank You for Your love that prompts us to respond in kind and is the source of the hope, the certain expectation of Your imminent return, that enables us to endure. *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:

Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc.

PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452 or to prior@ailbe.org

The Fellowship of Ailbe, (www.ailbe.org)

Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.