

Monday, 23 December 2019 Psalm 81:1-5

*To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. Of Asaph. Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob! Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day. For it is a statute for Israel, a rule of the God of Jacob. He made it a decree in Joseph when he went out over the land of Egypt. I hear a language I had not known:*

Rejoice, again I say rejoice. Praise the Lord for the joy with which He has filled us. Let our singing be enthusiastic, our melodies filled with harmony and rhythm, our voices reflect beauty and tonality. Let the voices of our instruments blend together to raise an anthem to the glories of the Lord.

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Tuesday, 24 December 2019 Psalm 81:6-7

*"I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket. In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah*

Lord, You allow tests and trials, You allow us to be brought into secret places where no one else knows of the agonies we face, where You can teach us to turn to You, to cry out to You, to seek Your wisdom and strength, abandoning our own devices and schemes. Then You relieve our burden, You carry the load, You are our strength and hope.

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Wednesday, 25 December 2019 Psalm 81:8-12

*Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to me! There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god. I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. "But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.*

You are the Lord, our God, You have brought us out of a life of separation from You. That life of enslavement to self and sin centeredness. From a life of fear and worry into a life of Joy in Your presence. All You ask of us is to open our mouth and receive the blessing as You pour it in; You ask for our "Yes, Lord" to Your commands and the

blessings will begin flow into us.

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Thursday, 26 December 2019 Psalm 81:13-16

*Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes. Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever. But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."*

Lord, when we seek You only, when our only desire is to walk in obedience to You, then our cup runs over, our joy is full, my life is complete.

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Friday, 27 December 2019 Psalm 119:129-130

*Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.*

For what can be known about You is plain to us, because You have shown it to us. For Your invisible attributes, namely, Your eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So we are without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20) Thank you, LORD, that we are without excuse. Thank you for that unfolding of your Word through Creation, for the unfolding this morning by the lightening as it laid the sheer immense beauty of the Creation before our eyes. Thank you for opening our eyes to the unfolding process.

The whiteness, the lightness, the blueness, the sharp details, the softness, the clearness, the pinkness of the dawn, are not these all hints of the glory of your Presence?

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Saturday, 28 December 2019 Psalm 119:133-136

*Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me. Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts. Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.*

The burden of our hearts, laid upon our by your Spirit, is

for the imprisoned, Lord, men whose disobedience to your law has put them into conflict with man's law. Oh, Lord, that you can use us to bring them to an understanding of how your Law must guide their lives as they live out the consequences of disobeying man's law. Many profess a "sinner's prayer" conversion but their lives do not reflect a transforming new birth. Transform and revive, Lord, as only you can do!

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*Lord's Day, 29 December 2019 Exodus 20:1-2,16  
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 bear false witness against your neighbor."*

How often do we duck an issue rather than speak Truth in love? We are bearing "false witness" if we refuse through cowardice to bring the Word of God into the conversation on matters of morals and ethics. We contribute to the weakening of the Christian voice in the marketplace of ideas when we behave so cravenly. Is not this a form of denying our Lord before men? We need to be quaking in our boots for fear that He will deny us before the Father.

*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](http://www.ailbe.org/bookstore/christian-discipline)

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*December 23-29, 2019*

*Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 5:28  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all to whom we minister, to our entire Personal Mission Field. May our every endeavor be directed to bring all those that You have given to us into the fold, to bring about the discipling of all nations as You have directed. *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](http://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:

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Realizing the presence, promise and power  
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