

Monday, 6 January 2020 Psalm 84:1-2

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Lord, You have created an intense desire within my heart to be fit, holy and pure, so that I may be Your dwelling place, Your temple, the place from which Your glory emanates in word and deed.

Tuesday, 7 January 2020 Psalm 84:3-4

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah

How lovely it is to be Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! What joy there is to sing Your praises throughout the land. What peace floods my soul as life in your kingdom becomes a reality to me, as I learn to live in the Unseen. Praise You, my LORD God Almighty.

Wednesday, 8 January 2020 Psalm 84:5-7

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.

Blessed am I for my strength is in You. You have transformed my heart and filled it with the desire to lead others to You. You have made me a spring overflowing with Your message of love, grace, and mercy springs to lead others into Your blessings and encourages others to seek Your face.

Praise You, my Lord, Master, and Savior.

Thursday, 9 January 2020 Psalm 84:8-12

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD, God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

Lord, not only have You given me a day in Your court, You have given me thousands and certain hope of an infinite more to come. And You keep showing me the treasures of Your courts,

revealing the myriads and myriads of blessings that flow from Your presence. The good things, the jewels from Your treasure chest, are poured over me in a cascading flood of light and color, revealing an Understanding of You as Goodness.

Praise You, LORD God Almighty.

Friday, 10 January 2020 Psalm 119:145-147

With my whole heart, I cry; answer me, O LORD! I will keep your statutes. I call to you; save me, that I may observe your testimonies. I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words.

Lord, I join with the writer in crying to You for help in applying my salvation to Your Kingdom. I thank You and praise You for the forgetting of my sins, that You remember them no more.

Now, lead me and teach me to observe all Your statutes and to carry the evidence of Your Grace through deed and word. You have carved out a sphere of influence that is uniquely mine to serve You in. Through Your power, manifest in the Holy Spirit, I am equipped for the task.

Saturday, 11 January 2020 Psalm 119:150-152

They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from Your law. But You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are true. Long have I known from Your testimonies that You have founded them forever.

Lord, there is great contentment in Your presence, a peace without equal and a joy of complete fulfillment. It comes from knowing You and knowing that Your commandments are the necessary and sufficient Truth. It comes from the presence of Your Holy Spirit within me as the seal on my acceptance into Your Kingdom and as my guide through life. It happens, and I receive it with thanksgiving, praise, and gratitude.

Praise You, my Lord and Savior.

Lord's Day, 12 January 2020 Exodus 20:1-3

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 have no other gods before me."

Ephesians 5:15-17 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, (16) making the best use of the time because the days are evil. (17) Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

How often, Lord God Almighty, do the unwise and unwholesome use of my time reflect that I have put some other god before You? The answer has to be "Always!" How can I be obedient to Your directive to love You with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength and then indulge in activities that bring dishonor to Your Name? And to take this a step farther, how can I be engaged in any activity that does not bring honor to Your name?

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



January 6-12, 2020

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD, we, the [congregation], raise each other up in prayer that we may be worthy of Your calling, and that by Your power You will fulfill every good purpose of ours and every act prompted by our faith. We pray this so the Your Name, our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in us and us in You, according to the grace of our God and You. *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:

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