

Monday, 20 January 2020 Psalm 87:1-3

*A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. A Song. On the holy mount stands the city He founded; the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob. Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God. Selah*

*"The Church's one Foundation/ is Jesus Christ, our Lord." Your city, Lord, founded on You, laid out according to Your Word, with wide and smooth streets, secure gates, and magnificent architecture. The Church is your city, and its inhabitants are Your temple. Our great joy is to speak of Your goodness and praise Your Name to the nations around us.*

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Tuesday, 21 January 2020 Psalm 87:4-7

*Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon; behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush-- "This one was born there," they say. And of Zion, it shall be said, "This one and that one were born in her"; for the Most High Himself will establish her. The LORD records as He registers the peoples, "This one was born there." Selah Singers and dancers alike say, "All my springs are in You."*

When will the nations say of Your Church, "You are born in Zion, you are the voice of the Almighty?" When will the walk of the Church inspire the nations to say so? When will we stand for Truth and the Word of the Lord? When will we speak righteousness and justice into evil and sin? When will Your Church come to its knees in repentance?

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Wednesday, 22 January 2020 Psalm 88:1-5

*A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. To the choirmaster: according to Mahalath Leannoth. A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite. O LORD, God of my salvation; I cry out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry! For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lies in the grave, like those whom You remember no more, for they are cut off from Your hand.*

Lord, there is no strength in me, not of myself or my own will and determination. I cannot restore my life, let alone the life of another. My soul is troubled by what I see in me and by what I fear for others. It is so difficult to remember and obey "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ

Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Bring the Truth of this passage into my soul. Brand it on my heart. That it will be at the forefront of my mind and standing in the gate of my conscience

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Thursday, 23 January 2020 Psalm 88:6-9a

*You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You overwhelm me with all Your waves. Selah You have caused my companions to shun me; You have made me a horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; (9a) my eye grows dim through sorrow.*

Lord, I find myself moved to pray for my friends and brothers in the prisons, abandoned by family, shunned by former friends, surrounded by evil and deceit. Many are crying out to You for release from the horrors of the Devil but not willing to concede all their will to You. Lord, give them compliant hearts that they will allow to be molded into Your image. Show them that entering into Your Kingdom is not release from prison but is released from sin and decay. That release is not into restriction but is release into Freedom.

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Friday, 24 January 2020 Psalm 88:9b-12

*Every day I call upon You, O LORD; I spread out my hands to You. Do You work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise You? Selah Is Your steadfast love declared in the grave or Your faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Your wonders known in the darkness, or Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?*

Bless those dear brothers. Bless them while they are in prison. Bless them in the turmoil of the living units; bless them in the yard and cafeteria as they witness to others by deed and word. Bless them as they obey the corrections officers and as they work with caseworkers and counselors.

Bless them after release as they work with Probation and Parole, as they seek housing and employment. Bless them as they re-establish relationships with friends and family. Bless all whom they touch through the demonstration of the transforming power of Your grace and mercy.

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Saturday, 25 January 2020 Psalm 88:13-18

*But I, O LORD, cry to You; in the morning my prayer comes before You. O LORD, why do You cast my soul away? Why do You hide Your face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer Your terrors; I am helpless. Your wrath has swept over me; Your*

*dreadful assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in on me together. You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness.*

Strengthen us, give us the power to do, and to speak boldly in Your Name before all. Keep us from those hidden sins that corrupt and destroy; lay a cloak of obedience in all things upon us to demonstrate Your love for us and our love for You.

Lord, that our confessions of faith would be true and active, bless us, Lord, bless us.

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Lord's Day, 26 January 2020 *Exodus 34:21*

*"Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest. In plowing time and in harvest you shall rest.*

Lord, why do I always think I know better than You and that I don't need a day of rest and refreshment? Why cannot I learn that there is divine wisdom in Your words and Father knows best? Will I rest today? Will I revel in Your presence today? Will I set aside all the cares and worries of my work-a-day week? Will I obey? Lead me, Lord.

*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*



*January 20-26, 2020*

*Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Thessalonians 3:2-5*

*And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.*

Lord, we pray for our [Congregation], that we may be wise and discerning. There are many who among those we are called to minister to, who profess the faith but do not walk it when out in the world. Guide us as we seek to lead our flocks into lives that honor and glorify You in all aspects.

*We pray for each other that we will be led into the fullness of Your love and filled with Your perseverance. 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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