

Journey Into God's Word



Deuteronomy 17-34

Proverbs 13-20

John 11-15

“The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deut 31:8

My Dear Friends and Co-Workers,

What are you afraid of? If you say nothing, then what is your vision? What steps of faith are you taking to fulfill that vision? For example, if you work in a free store, a radio or TV station, etc. what are you believing God to do through you? “Is fear holding you back from believing that He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”? (**Eph. 3:20**) Why is it so hard for us to not only hear, but also have a belief that releases a force of faith that will put fear on the run? Jesus declares in **John 11:25, 26**, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” How are you going to answer Jesus’ question?

Fear turned the High Priest and Sanhedrin into a group of murders. They justified their plans to kill Jesus by stating, “If we let Him go like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”(**John 11:48**) Fear destroys as the word of the Lord declares, “Do not be afraid... see, your King is coming,”(**John 12:15**)

Why is it that we spend so much of our time paralyzed with fear and without vision when Jesus will do far more than we can even expect if we will believe Him? Please look up the following Scriptures and see what was expected and then what Jesus actually did. For example in **Mark 2:1-12** we see a man who looked for healing. Jesus not only heals him but also forgives his sins. Now study **Luke 5:1-11**, **Luke 7:11-17**, **Matt 12:38-45**, **John 6:1-15** and write out what was expected and how Jesus did even more than what was expected. In **John 13:1-20** we see the disciples expected to eat the Passover meal with Jesus but He also

washes their feet. Why do you think He did this? In **John 11:53, 19:30, 20:1-29** we see the religious leaders wanted Jesus killed but they got more than they expected. What happened and how does this effect you and the fears you struggle with on a daily basis? What does Jesus say in **John 12:23-26** that is necessary in order for us to apply the liberating message of the resurrection to our personal lives?

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fears,”(**1John 4:18**). If you believe that you are loved, you have experienced the powerful antidote to the poison of fear. Jesus loves you and knows exactly who and what you are. Experiencing God’s love is the greatest motivation for overcoming fear and experiencing the power to change. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have life everlasting.”(**John 3:16**) His love frees you to live a life that is not paralyzed by fear. Have you accepted that love? Stop fearing the future and let the God-of-the-now live in you! How does the new commandment that Jesus gives you in **John 13:34** apply to this?

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me.” These words of Jesus in **John 14:1** are a command to us not to fear but to trust. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”(**Pro. 3:5**) Jesus says, “If you love Me you will obey what I command”(**John 14:15**) Do you love Him? Then will you believe Him? If so, then hear what Jesus says to you at this time: “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth.”(**John 14:16**) “Whoever has My commands and obeys them he is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and show Myself to him.”(**John 14:21**) In light of these words and that spoken of in **John 14:23,24**, why is it so very important that we obey the teachings of Jesus if we want to not only be set free from fear but also experience eternal life?

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in My name and I will do it.”(**John 14:12-14**) With a promise like that, what excuse do you have for letting fear into your life, rather than faith? But that is not all; Jesus has given us the “Spirit of Truth,” the Holy Spirit “He lives with you and will be in you.”(**John 14:17**) But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you

all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”(**John 14:26**) Now in the name of Jesus, let fear be gone and let the Holy Spirit work in your life. For Jesus has spoken, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”(John 14:27) This is possible if you, as a branch, remain in the vine. Jesus declares in **John 15:5**, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.”(**John 15:5**) What does this mean to you? What promise exists in **John 15:7,8**?

Jesus made His choice for us. Without Him making such a choice to die for us and to be resurrected, we would have no choice. “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.”(**John 15:16**) What does this mean to you? What fruit are you producing? According to **John 15:18-25**, why does the world hate the true followers of Jesus Christ?

Christ is risen and following His resurrection, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was sent forth, “the Spirit of Truth who goes out from the Father He will testify about Me (Jesus). And you also must testify.”(**John 15:26,27**) In what ways are you boldly testifying about our Resurrected Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

“Remember the word of the Lord. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them. For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you.”(**Deut. 20:3,4**) Now it is important that you boldly share Jesus in word and deed with everyone you come in contact with. Fear not, because Christ has taken the curse of sin upon Himself for you and me. “Because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse.”(**Deut 21:22**) “By His death He might destroy Him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil; and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”(**Heb. 2:14, 15**)

Liberated from a fear of death, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are now free to live and reach out to those in need. How does **Deut. 24:10-22**, and **Deut. 27:19** show God’s great concern for the needy. As you study **Deut.28** what blessings await those who obey the Lord? In that same chapter what does it say happens to those who disobey?

“Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations, make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.”(**Deut. 29:18**) Now compare **Deut. 30:14**, **Romans 10:8-11** and state

how, by receiving “the word” and obeying it, you will be able to resist the bitter poison of unbelief and fear. This “word” can also free you from the poisonous roots of fear and bitterness, which embed themselves in our lives as a result of disappointments from the past. “See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”(**Heb. 12:15**) The “word is very near you.”(**Deut 30:14**) “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us,”(**John 1:14**) and now He can heal your memories of disappointments, fears and bitterness of the past. Let the love of Jesus Christ, which casts out all fear and bitterness, set you free to experience His grace and life.

“Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him.”(**Deut 30:19,20**) By choosing the life that Christ provides, you will be able to courageously know that, “the Lord your God Himself will cross over ahead of you.”(**Deut. 31:3**) At this time He is speaking to you. “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.”(**Deut. 31:5**) How many times does Moses say to Joshua in **Deut. 31** to be strong and courageous? How many times has God told you this? Are you listening? How are you living by faith? Read **Deut. 32** verses **3,4,6,10-12** and describe what it says about God and His faithfulness and protection. How does this chapter also describe the anger of God toward those who disobey Him?

Don’t live in fear, instead obey the Lord your God and know “the Eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”(**Deut. 33:27**) “He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword.”(**Deut. 33:29**)

Let the Living God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, fill your deepest longings. Remember “hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life,”(**Prov. 13:12**)

Don’t fear the future for it is God who created us, knows us and loves us. He gives us instructions for daily living. It is important we receive these instructions. “He who scorns instructions will pay for it.”(**Prov. 13:13**) What instructions do you find in **Proverbs 13** and **14**? We must let God’s word, through the power of the Holy Spirit, direct us each day because, “there is a way that seems right to a person, but in the end it leads to death.”(**Prov. 14:12**) “The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.”(**Prov. 14:27**) What directions are given in **Proverbs 14** concerning helping the poor? Many talk a lot of religion today, but **Proverbs 14:31** says, “whoever is kind to the needy honors

God.” Providing for the poor is a command throughout the Scriptures. What do **Lev. 23:22, Deut. 15:7,8, Psalms 113:5-9; Psalms 146: 5-9; Isaiah 58:7: 2Cor .9:9** and **James 2:1-9** have to say about this?

Proverbs 15 reveals directives for responding when upset, controlling the tongue, taking correction, prayer, pursuing righteousness, happiness, love, controlling one’s temper, pride, good counsel, pure thoughts, avoiding greed and having humility. After reading this chapter state what it has to say about the topics mentioned above.

Don’t fear the future. “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”(**Prov. 16:3**) What other information do you find helpful in **Proverbs 16**?

“A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.”(**Prov. 17:22**) Who have you encouraged today with a cheerful heart? What do **Proverbs 17** and **18** have to say about the proper use of our mouths and the words they speak?

“It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way,”(**Prov. 19:2**) “A person’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.”(**Prov. 19:11**) “He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done.”(**Prov. 19:17**) “Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; who is led astray by them is not wise.” (**Prov. 20:1**) “The lamp of the Lord searches the spirit of a person; it searches out his innermost being.”(**Prov. 20:27**) What other instructions are given in **Proverbs 19** and **20**?

This week let us continue to walk by faith in the light of God’s Word under the leading of the Holy Spirit and the power of our Risen Lord. Please join me in reading the book of **Joshua 1-24, Proverbs 21-31, and John 16-21**. “Keep your heart on the right path.”(**Prov. 23:19**) Remember Jesus has called you to be a very important part of the mighty work He is doing at this time. Do not be afraid. Trust Him and He will do far beyond what you can even imagine.

Yours in Christ,

Larry Rice

