

168 – Real Comfort Food

Thank you for sending all the scriptures that came in late last night and early this morning. Someone asked if you could send in more as other Scriptures occurred to you: Yes, of course, by all means. I see this potentially becoming a resource for 7 billion of God's kids, many of whom don't know Him, never mind falling in love with Him and committing their lives to serving Him. I can't imagine that there could be too many Scriptures to guide all of God's kids, can you? And here's the thing: we could potentially make a daily guide for living out of this eon, along the lines of "My Utmost for His Highest." That's 365 entries, and maybe it's a 2 or 3-volume set. Well, so far, I have 91 entries, so it's a good start, but there's a long way to go.

I found only two duplicate Scriptures out of 91 entries that 4 people emailed; that is amazing to me. It also demonstrates, I think, how the word of God effectively ministers encouragement and comfort to each person with his or her unique personality.

Let's look together at some of these.

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of expectation be filling you with all joy and peace in believing, for you to be superabounding in expectation, in the power of holy spirit.

This Scripture would make a great one to be framed and hung in homes and offices, wouldn't it? In the Greek text, the grammar marks change the reading just a little:

Now may the God of **THE** expectation be filling you with **EVERY** joy and peace in **THE** believing, **INTO** you to be super-abounding in **THE** expectation, in the power of holy spirit.

THE expectation appears twice. What is **THE expectation**? It is **not** some vague theological construct; it is the *specific* expectation we have in the Lord – in the Messiah. What is it? The answer is not to be found in this section of Romans. The Apostle Paul assumed by the time he wrote Romans 15, that we already knew what he meant by **the expectation**. To answer fully, we have to go back to Romans 5:

1 Being, then, justified by faith, we may be having peace toward God, through our Lord, Yeshua the Messiah,

2 through Whom we have the access also, by faith, into this grace in which we stand,

and we may be glorying in **expectation of the glory of God.**

3 Yet not only so, but we may be glorying also in afflictions, having perceived that affliction is producing endurance,

4 yet endurance testedness, yet testedness expectation.

5 Now **THE** expectation is not mortifying, seeing that the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the holy spirit which is being given to us.

The “**expectation of the glory of God.**” In Romans 5:2 gives us the understanding of **THE expectation** that Paul refers to in Romans 15:13.

Paul also writes, “**filling you with EVERY joy and peace in THE believing.**” Paul says, “This is not just *any* believing; it is **THE believing**. It may seem obvious that the believing refers to faith in Yeshua the Messiah, but my suspicion is more along the lines of **Romans 3:22**, where Paul writes, “**Yeshua the Messiah’s faith.**”

Here’s that context:

Romans 3:21-23

21 Yet now, apart from law, a righteousness of God is manifest (being attested by the law and the prophets),

22 yet a righteousness of God through **Yeshua the Messiah’s faith**, for all, and on all **who are believing**, for there is no distinction,

23 for all sinned and are wanting of the glory of God.

With all that background now, let’s read it one more time:

Now may the God of THE expectation be filling you with EVERY joy and peace in THE believing, INTO you to be super-abounding in THE expectation, in the power of holy spirit.

Now, let me share with you what the person who submitted this Scripture wrote about its importance to them:

I have this written on an index card at my desk so that when days seem long and wearisome, I can look at it and remember that God’s got it. My job is to rest in His joy and His peace, and to pray in the Spirit for strength when I have forgotten who I am and Whose I am. Praise His Holy Name!

AMEN.

Now to **Philippians 4:13** – this is from New King James Version

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

That verse has been a staple since Barbara and I got together. We both quote it often, probably because we are often into situations or relationships that only the Lord can bring us through – and oh, how sometimes we want to be **through**, AMEN?

Here it is from the CLNT:

For all am I strong in Him Who is invigorating me -- Christ!

When we look at the Greek text, it reads even more differently:

For all am I strong in Him, the One invigorating me – the Messiah, the Anointed One!

What's great about each of the versions is that the invigorating or strengthening is present tense. In the NKJ version, it is "**Christ Who strengthens me**"; in the CLNT, He "**IS invigorating me.**" The point here is that we are not waiting to be invigorated; it's happening right now; He, the Lord, is doing it! Now, we must be doing OUR part, certainly, which this verse doesn't address, but the context does, so let's look at it.

Philippians 4:11-13

I learned to be content in that in which I am.

12 I am aware what it is to be humbled as well as aware what it is to be superabounding. In everything and among all am I initiated, to be satisfied as well as to be hungry, to be superabounding as well as to be in want.

13 For all am I strong in Him Who is invigorating me -- Christ!

Earlier in Philippians 4, Paul writes in verse 1, "**be standing firm thus in the Lord.**" Then in verses 3-10, Paul hits it all:

4 Be rejoicing in the Lord always! Again, I will declare, be rejoicing!

5 Let your lenience be known to all men: the Lord is near.

6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God,

7 and the peace of God, that is superior to every frame of mind, shall be garrisoning your hearts and your apprehensions in Christ Jesus.

8 For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is grave, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is agreeable, whatever is renowned -- if there is any virtue, and if any applause, be taking these into account.

9 What you learned also, and accepted and hear and perceived in me, these be putting into practice, and the God of peace will be with you.

Back to verse 11-13

I learned to be content in that in which I am.

12 I am aware what it is to be humbled as well as aware what it is to be superabounding. In everything and among all am I initiated, to be satisfied as well as to be hungering, to be superabounding as well as to be in want.

13 For all am I strong in Him the One invigorating me – the Messiah, the Anointed One!

Now here's what the person who sent this scripture shared about its personal importance:

It helps me when I think I can't do something; I just think of this scripture. It turns my day into a positive and encouraging one, to keep going, because, "I CAN do ALL things through Christ."

Someone else who sent this Scripture (one of the few duplicates), wrote this:

When I would start to feel overwhelmed, or think I cannot do something, I would say (or think) this scripture:

This Scripture clearly addresses a sense of overwhelm or impossibility that is entirely – and even properly Human; it belongs to the "old humanity." How important it is to recognize the source of our strength, our invigorating. It's also important to recognize that what this Scripture does NOT say is that, which is if we are relying on any other source for our strength or invigorating, we most certainly will NOT be strong for all, we will NOT be able to do all things – and we will definitely NOT be doing what counts, let alone what pleases the Father.

When Barbara and I got together, I was doing nothing that counted. As Barbara correctly called it, I was amassing piles of wood, hay, and stubble, all of which would be burned up when I met the Lord. I am unspeakably grateful to her for walking me through my breaking, so that the Father could make my life count for something instead of nothing. She more than anyone knows how much this scripture means to my life, and hers:

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

For all am I strong in Him the One invigorating me – the Messiah, the Anointed One!

This next Scripture is one of my all time favorites. The person who sent it wrote, "God does NOT think how I think. I used to (and still sometimes do) think others, including YaHoVeH, think the same thoughts as me. This scripture reminds me that this is simply not true."

Isaiah 55:8

For my designs are not your designs,

and your ways are not my ways, averring is Yahweh.

I like to add the next verse, because YaHoVeH gave a comparison that people can understand about the difference between His thoughts and ours:

*For as the heavens are loftier than the earth,
So are My ways loftier than your ways,
And My designs than your designs.*

In the book, *Go GOD!*, I quoted the psychologist Martin Seligman, who wrote in his book, *Learned Optimism*, that human beings believe that what they think is true simply because they think it. That is such a good picture of what Barbara and I call the arrogance of mankind. I have to say here that, when it comes right down to it, apart from the Father's Spirit living and operating in us, we would have no capacity at all to relate to Him, let alone understand Him to any meaningful degree; and the truth is what Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 13:12**:

For at present we are observing by means of a mirror, in an enigma, yet then, face to face. At present I know out of an instalment, yet then I shall recognize according as I am recognized also.

The “**then**” that Paul referred to is “**the Day of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah**,” from **1 Corinthians 1:8**

It would never have occurred to Isaiah, or anyone else in the days before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, to think, let alone declare, what Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 2:16**:

“We have the mind of the Anointed One.”

So, I wonder out loud, is it possible today that our designs and our ways COULD be the Father's, at least to the extent that we have ... “**Become imitators of God, as beloved children**” (Ephesians 6:1); to the extent that we have successfully stripped off the old humanity with its practices, which is corrupt according to its seductive desires, and put on the new humanity which is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth? – Boy, there's a massive combination of Scripture there?

Now, let me finish this question off with **Colossians 3:14**

Now over all these put on love, which is the tie of maturity.

How is “**love**” the “**tie of maturity**”? I know we looked at this within the last few weeks, but not in connection with Isaiah 55 and God's designs and ways that YaHoVeH, says, don't match up with ours.

First, “**love**” is “**THE love**,” which means agape: that ruthless love of YaHoVeH, which stops at nothing short of the complete fulfillment of His purpose of the eons in and through everyone’s life. This is why “**The love**” is “**the tie of THE maturity**.” There is no maturity outside of agape; and we are charged with putting it on, just like we are charged with putting on the new humanity; just like we are charged with putting on “**the panoply of God**,” in **Ephesians 6**.

Now that we grasp this more deeply, look at the rest of Paul’s follow-up in Colossians 3:

15 And let the peace of the Anointed One be arbitrating in your hearts, for which you were called also in one body; and become thankful.

16 Let the word of the Anointed One be making its home in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing yourselves; in psalms, in hymns, in spiritual songs, singing, with grace in your hearts to the Father.

17 And everything, whatsoever you may be doing, in word or in act, do all in the name of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah, giving thanks to YaHoVeH, the Father, through Him.

Isaiah didn’t know what you and I know today. He didn’t have what we have today – we saw that in last week’s study in Hebrews 12. Isaiah WANTED to know, and He knew He didn’t know, and furthermore, he knew that what he wrote about by the anointing of the same Spirit living in you and me today, that one day He WOULD know...but that he would have to wait, not knowing how long, but probably realizing not in his lifetime.