

Monday, June 15, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can flesh do to me?"**

Psalm 56: 4

So, how does one put their faith in God? What does it look like to put your faith in God? It's kind of like owning a car. You either drive it or keep it in the garage. The car serves no purpose if it is kept in the garage all the time. As much as we like the way cars look and we want to have nice looking cars, the ultimate purpose of our car is to be a means of transportation.

Our relationship with God works much the same way. God calls for us to venture out in our faith in Him. That is, trust Him enough that we get up every morning, get dressed, and go about our lives. (Disclaimer: this is not a suggestion that we ignore the guidelines that have been set forth regarding the coronavirus.) To put our faith in God, that is, to trust in Him and not to be afraid, as the Psalm suggests, means that I continue to live with a certain amount of joy and energy in spite of what might be going on.

Our faith in God is not meant to be kept in the garage. It's meant to be driven on the street. Owning a car isn't the point. Driving it is. Knowing some things ABOUT God isn't the point. Living life with joy and peace as we TRUST in Him is. The Psalm says, "What can flesh do to me?" In other words, "what can earthly problems do to me that will have everlasting repercussions?" Do you know the answer? The answer is ... NOTHING! The problems of this life are limited in what they can do. Certainly they can make life hard. The good things that we have always depended upon may not always be there. Just ask Job! Or just ask your friends, or even yourself.

But the question still stands, "What can flesh do to me?" In other words, what can this life do to me that will matter in the end? Again, the answer is, "NOTHING!" Nothing that we experience in this life has an eternal impact, except, of course, our faith. THAT has eternal ramifications. Our faith in God, and even more specifically, our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, not only gets us out of bed in the morning and causes us to pull the car out of the garage, but it ultimately has eternal implications. Faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior secures our place in God's presence in heaven forever.

So, "I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?"

God's peace!
Pastor Jim