

Thank you,  
 Jesus, God, Spirit,  
 Who is Holy on us,  
 For your amazing Love.  
 You dug a dwelling place  
 And settled tenaciously forever,  
 Amen,  
 Among us.  
 Thank you,  
 Jesus, God, Spirit  
 For your incredible grace.



Psalm 8

O God, our Sovereign how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
 You have set your glory above the heavens.  
 Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark  
 because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.  
 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
 the moon and the stars that you have established  
 What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
 mortals that you care for them?  
 Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
 and crowned them with glory and honor.  
 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands,  
 you have put all things under their feet,  
 All sheep and oxen; and also the beasts of the field,  
 The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
 whatever passes along the path of the seas.  
 O God, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## “Becoming Mindful”

What are human beings that you are mindful of them  
 mortals that you care for them?

Psalm 8:9

This verse makes me smile. I like to think that many years ago it made the psalmist smile too, when faith dawned, and belief dared to imagine that human beings are on God’s heart and mind. In his reflection on this verse, Mark Ralls wrote:

Mindfulness is a divine attribute that has received little theological attention. Perhaps this is because it is so easily absorbed into the broader category of love. The distinction I would suggest is this: Mindfulness is love that resists distraction. It is a staunch refusal to fall into absent-mindedness. It is focused, sustained attention toward the beloved. In this way, mindfulness seems less tied to the cognitive functions of the mind and closer to what we call an act of will. Mindfulness is choosing to cherish and then choosing---again and again---never to back away from that initial decision. Devoted spouses, dedicated friends, caring parents are all mindful of the ones they love. Above all else, God is mindful of humanity. To paraphrase Karl Barth, God choose---before the foundation of the world---to be the God for humanity. On the basis of this primal act of divine will, we can be assured that God’s attention never wavers, Our Creator is eternally mindful of us

(‘Mindful’, Living the Word, Christian Century May 15,07).

A companion scripture to psalm 8 comes from Proverbs 8:29b-31 where Wisdom said of herself:

When the Creator marked out the foundations of the earth,  
 I was beside the Holy One like a master working.  
 Rejoicing before God always.  
 Rejoicing in the Maker’s created world.  
 Delighting in the human race.

The term for human (homo sapien) and the word for wisdom (sapientia) share the same Latin root. In her commentary on this verse, Ellen Davis wrote in Westminster Bible Commentary:  
 Biblical wisdom is a relationship of both heart and mind in which the heart helps mortals know the world altogether. Emotion,

rational, thinking, observation, imagination, desire---all these are activities of the heart. Wisdom speaks to our hearts. Nothing could be simpler or more democratic---after all, everyone has a heart . . .

In the Christian Sacrament of Baptism we celebrate our Loving Creator for being mindful of us in a Trinitarian (God-Three-In-One) way. In faith we proclaim that we are beloved children of God; forever friends of Jesus; and animated by the Holy Spirit, the Divine Energy of Life that brings about the new creation of all things (Jurgen Motlmann). In this faith we praise God and thank Jesus as we sing the Spirit's song: Child of Blessing, Child of Promise, born to know whose child you are . . . (hymn, vs. 1).

In her journal reflection, 'Sensuous Spirituality', Christian mystic Virginia Ramsy Mollenkoff writes of the importance of knowing who and whose we are:

It is a special blessing to play your position willingly, because then your heart is able to feel the tenderness and supportiveness of Angels and Spirit Guides who surround the world in eagerness to help. We know that all things (even your 'errors') work together for good for those who love God (i.e. who willingly open themselves to channel Her love into the world), who are called according to (Her) purpose (Roman 8:28); that is, everyone is called to come home to a kingdom of mutuality and peace-with-justice, but some remain alienated at this time and cannot sense or enjoy the benefits of loving God. They too will eventually come home; but those who offer God their willingness will become awakened and consciously aware, that they are part of God's purpose-a truly beautiful and blessed state of mind. (Journal 10,10-130)

Becoming awakened and consciously aware of being a part of God's purpose, is, without a doubt, a beautiful state of mind. That's why in Christian Baptism, we parents, sponsors, and church member promise to be Angels and Spirit Guides who vow to do what we can, with what we have been given, to assist our children in becoming mindful of who and whose they are. . . . Beloved Children of God. Shortly we will make a vow to God and Noelle to nurture her in Jesus-God-Spirit faith. Before we do, I'd like to share with you an excerpt from 'Laying the Foundation' which reminds us of the benefits of such a promise.

What does it mean to live by commitment? This is an interesting question. As the dictionary defines it, a commitment is a pledge, something that binds us emotionally and mentally to someone or something or a course of action. The way Tibetan Buddhism traditionally views it, living by commitment means more than simply acting or not acting. When we make a commitment, we set our intention clearly and know what we're vowing to do or not do. This is why it's so powerful. Chogyam Trungpa said that a vow to not kill, for example, has more power than just not killing. If a lion or tiger doesn't kill, that's virtuous, but when causes and conditions come together, the lion or tiger will almost certainly kill because that's its nature. For us, however, taking a vow---making a commitment---allows us to not act reflexively when we have an urge. We think twice before speaking or acting. Commitment is at the very heart of freeing ourselves from old habits and fears.

As Christians we relieve ourselves of fears and free ourselves from old habits by promising to follow Jesus' way of being faithful to God. Jesus said: "Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit we cannot enter God's new order."

Last Christmas I received a present from my seven year old granddaughter that she picked out from all the other gifts at Santa's gift shop at school. It is a delicate golden cross with pretend diamonds. It made my heart glad to imagine that I might be an Angel or Spiritual Guide in her faith journey back home to heart of God with Jesus. It stirred up my gratitude for her parents and brother whose love and care for her is helping to shape her compassionate and caring heart. It prompted me to say a 'thank-you' prayer to her aunt who takes her to church. It made me give a shout-out to her Sunday School teachers who welcome her suggestions about the most fun way to learn the lessons for the day. When I saw the cross, I could not help but smile because, becoming awakened and consciously aware of Jesus-God-Spirit with us, now and forevermore, is both a joyful blessing of heart and beautiful state of mind.