

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 5/20/2024
Fearfully and Wonderfully

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

ONE AT ONE – *Every day this week beginning on Tuesday, May 21 you are encouraged to pray for one minute at one o'clock. This week, offer prayers of praise for the greatness of our GOD. Thank GOD for all the blessings GOD has brought into your life. Praise GOD for the good things done for you and that you can do each day.*

Psalm 139:14 says, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." These days as I journey out of this difficult illness that has consumed me for almost a week, I can't help but hear these words a little differently.

"Fearfully and wonderfully made," reflects the amazing construction of the human body by our loving CREATOR. We are complex in ways that only GOD could imagine and put together. Every facet of our body, down even to the workings within each cell gives testimony to the greatness of our GOD.

I've heard adults say to children, "You are 'fearfully and wonderfully made.'" Sometimes it is said in amazement at what a young child can do. At other times, it is spoken with the shaking of the head over the silly and unexpected behavior of a child.

"Fearfully" relates to the sacred nature in which we are made. It reflects a sense of awe or wonder over what we are capable. Both in our intentional actions and the functioning of our bodies, there is a holy amazement in what we can do. In I Corinthians 12, Paul uses the image of the body to help us think about the Church: one, but with many parts. Each part has different roles to play in the functioning of the body and is essential to the overall work of the body. When all parts function together well, many positive things are accomplished. But we sometimes forget that these parts are interactive and when one part ceases to function properly, others, even the whole body, are affected.

Fearfully has come to also mean a warning of caution for when things aren't right. The infection which has invaded my body recently is an example of a part not working properly. Additionally, the typical functioning of those parts surrounding the infected area has created a multitude of problems throughout the region. As one part does its job, the infection rebels in painful ways. Thankfully, a revision to my diagnosis and additional medication are making "normalcy" seem a possibility. At the same time, I note that I have two months of this medication. Nevertheless, I hope to be functioning more normally by the end of this week.

When one part of the body that is the Church ceases to function the way it should, the rest of the body should look to see how to assist that part. Support, prayer, relief of tasks, and more can help the body part recover and allow for continued work by the rest of the body, though not always to its fullest. I am grateful for the prayers and support I have received from so many this past week and I covet your continued offering of goodwill as I work my way through this infection.

In CHRIST's love,
Pastor Jeffrey