



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Thursday, November 14, 2019

As your word unfolds it gives light, and even the simple understand. — Psalms 119:130

The Speed of Clicks and Folds

<https://email.althahosting.com/campaigns/gv966g5xv2ee5>

A fold is not a click. And while our emerging digital existence is built on words (coding languages) and light we don't move at the speed of an electron. We mature and learn at the speed of a fold.

God's word comes to us over a lifetime. As it unfolds we receive light ... understanding.

My marriage is unfolding in God's time, not mine. My life is unfolding according to His will, not mine. Every day with my lifetime partner unfolds more intimacy, light and understanding. My love for her deepens.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The ninetieth verse of Psalm 116 says, "Your constancy endures from age to age; you established the earth and it stands firm." Paulie and I pledged ourselves before God at our wedding to one another. Privately we promised never to use the word "divorce." While I've done so more than once in a weak or angry moment I can honestly say that I've never meant it. I've never used it as anything more than a pathetically weak tactic during a momentary fight.

It goes without saying that words mean things. More than we know they create the realities we inhabit. The same goes for the choice not to use certain words. The shape and quality of our lives and relationships depend on the word.

A popular word today is "climate." For a long time the fear mongering was carried on under the headline "global warming." In recent years the more flexible "climate change" has gained traction. Early in life the public school exposed me to this apocalyptic narrative and it gripped me. As I've deepened my Faith in God and Jesus Christ other words and concepts have taken precedence. Modernist and post-modernist evolutionary propaganda have loosened their grip on my mind.

God's word has taken hold like a vice. I'm grateful.

God established the earth. The Psalmist assures us, "It stands firm." He observes in the ninety first verse, "Through your judgements all stands firm to this day, for all creation is your servant." We are appointed stewards of His creation. The earth is, however, always and forever ... His. I don't worry about the future.

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This is not to say that we are relieved from the duty as stewards of caring for all that exists in His creation. Quite the opposite is true. We are, however, called to do this with the deliberation and attention due to a fold, not a click. Agenda driven propaganda isn't the answer. Deliberate and prayerful action is always required if we are to partner with our heavenly Father.

The scientific advances of recent centuries came as a result of sometimes torturous scientific experimentation that more resembled a slow unfolding or revealing of a natural process than the click of a mouse.

As your word unfolds it gives light, and even the simple understand.

The world would do well to make a promise like the one my wife and I made about divorce. Much would change if we stopped with the "sky is falling" panic nonsense. We'd do better work if we promised not to use the word "climate" ... so to speak.

We should focus all the misdirected energy we put into clicking toward panic into unfolding human systems that reduce pollution and improve lives.

A good start would be repentance. Following confession of our sins we should then turn to God and say with the Psalmist, "Let your face shine on your servant, teach me your will. May I live only to praise you, may your judgments be my help."

Amen.