

may 19, 2023

the quickening

"but if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." rom 8:11 kjv

the following is an excerpt taken from an article written by ruth graham about abortion.

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... for thousands of years, the quickening was arguably the most significant turning point in the average woman's pregnancy. it had both philosophical and practical significance for women, and for centuries it also marked the legal and moral dividing line for when an abortion could be performed. today, the quickening is noticed in passing, if at all. but it's worth remembering this now-antiquated milestone, and celebrating it for what it can still mean.

the term quickening comes from the root word quick, an archaic synonym for "living." (think "the quick and the dead.") the concept goes back at least to aristotle, who believed that male fetuses take on human characteristics after 40 days in the womb, and female fetuses after about 80 days. for aristotle, the quickening represented the moment when those fetuses became "animated." at that point, the fetus becomes its own being - it achieves "ensoulment," to invoke another archaic term.

for everyday women, those first movements were not just

a philosophical landmark but a practical one. in the days before blood tests and first response kits, the quickening often provided the first reliable sign of a woman's pregnancy. yes, a missed period has always been a clue, but it's not foolproof: many women have irregular cycles, and some bleed lightly in the first months of pregnancy. the confirmation had emotional resonance, too. the 18th-century feminist writer mary wollstonecraft wrote tenderly to her husband that her unborn child "took it into his head to frisk a little at being informed of your remembrance. i begin to love this little creature, and to anticipate his birth as a fresh twist to a knot, which i do not wish to untie."

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i do not wish to get into any kind of discussion here abortion. i believe the word of God and the Holy Spirit will deal with that in every born-again believer. the "quickening" i am talking about is from flesh to spirit; it is from eternal death to eternal life. we who are now living consider death merely as the absence of life. what it really is - the absence of God; without Him there is nothing. and whether one is "quick" or "dead" will depend on which spirit dwells within us.

i'm not talking about whether one has been "good" enough or "holy" enough. none of us will ever be either, compared to God. that's what Jesus lived and died for. i'm talking about the spirit of life that death could not conquer. it is a spirit that loves God above all else. it always seeks to please Him in everything. sure we all fail in many ways, but that is our preeminent desire and we struggle to meet it. "resist the devil and he will flee from you." james 4:7

"not that i have already attained, or am already perfected; but i press on, that i may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me." phil 3:12 i will never give up the fight until He gives up on me, and He NEVER will!