

## **EXPERIENCING the POWER of “ONE ACCORD”**

*“...they lifted up their voice to God with one accord...And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:24, 31-33 (KJV)*



### ***This Week’s Thought – January 17, 2016***

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***“Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it.” I Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)***

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There is a larger context to life than just living for self. A self-focused life is chronically frustrated and is unable to reach its full potential. Its demanding demeanor marginalizes wise counsel and only attracts insecure individuals; however, those who pray for what’s best for the whole become whole. Everyone is honored in an environment that values individual contributions. ***“We, not me”*** is the vocabulary of those who honor each other.

Every disciple is stronger when they are connected to other Christ followers. Isolation contributes to spiritual impotence, but community gives spiritual life and strength. Encouragement and accountability are exalted in relationships that serve what’s best for the group. ***“We, not me”*** is the motto of mature Jesus followers.

***“Listen, open your ears, harness your desire to speak, and don’t get worked up into a rage so easily, my brothers and sisters.” James 1:19 (The Voice)***

Furthermore, as we grow in grace we grow to honor individuals as the Lord does. Instead of being disrespectful with our distant demeanor, we communicate respect with our caring eye contact. We embrace another’s differences as an opportunity to learn and improve our thinking. We are quick to confess our quirks, even laugh at our weaknesses, as our heavenly father reminds us to take Him but not ourselves too seriously. Productive conflict develops our dependence on God and on each other. It’s life heavenly sandpaper to smooth our rough edges.

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Remember, the devil is the enemy. Spiritual battles are won on our knees. The accuser, Satan, is silenced when we surrender to the Lord’s relational terms of engagement. Selfishness is exiled when we submit our expectations to God. Relational skills are needed to manage conflict well. Listen well, think the best and create a safe environment for difficult conversations. Productive conflict increases friendships, love and trust.

*“Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, so must you also [forgive].”* Colossians 3:13 (Amplified Bible)

**Words from the Master during your time of reflection is week: “I am your Strength and Shield. I plan out each day and have it ready for your long before you arise from bed. I also provide the strength you need each step of the way. Instead of assessing your energy level and wondering about what’s on the road ahead, concentrate on staying in touch with Me. My power flows freely into you through your open communication. Refuse to waste energy worrying and you will have strength to spare. Whenever you start to feel afraid, remember that I am your Shield. My presence watches over you continually, protecting you from both known and unknown dangers.”** (Psalm 28:7: Matthew 6:34: Psalm 56:3-4: Genesis 28:15)

*“And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.”* Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King