

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 – June 26, 2016

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NIV)

Many things in life require a process. Pregnancy is typically a nine month process. Students (with grateful parents), graduate four years after beginning their undergraduate studies! Boot camp is a ten week process of Army basic training where recruits transform from civilians to soldiers. Farming is a seasonal process of plowing, planting, cultivating and harvesting. Maybe the most familiar is the lifetime relational process of growing in grace and love with family, friends and co-workers.

Paul uses agricultural imagery to illustrate the process of character development in Christ. He and Apollos were servants used by God to further His will. They were part of the Lord’s process, but their giftedness did not produce the results—the Spirit working through them bore the fruit. Instead of caring who received an allocated amount of credit—Paul and Apollos worked together for God’s greater mission. Their oneness of purpose galvanized and inspired those around them to work together and trust God with the right results. A Holy Spirit led process is totally reliable.

“For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” (Galatians 5:17-18)

What are you facing that requires you not to strive, but to rest and trust the Lord is at work in and through the process? Maybe you are on hold, while someone else is deciding on whether to offer you a job or not. If this is not the job for you—God has something more suitable.

You may be in a scary process—the outcomes are out of your control. Chronic worry only contributes to frustration and fear, while daily waiting on the Lord’s will to be revealed, grows a heart of peace.

How do you know if a process can be trusted? You can trust a proven process like discerning the best decision by prayer, scripture and wise counsel or the trusted process of Christ-centered pre-marital counseling to build a solid foundation for a lifetime of marriage. Thorough preparation for anything worthwhile is a smart expenditure of time, energy and resources. Stay faithful to the business discipline of remaining in the process at work. A proven process protects you from pride and from taking a short-cut that compromises the best outcome. Wisdom trusts the process.

“Do your planning and prepare your fields before building your house.” Proverbs 24:27 (NLT)

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “Trust Me and don’t be afraid, for I am your Strength. Do not let fear dissipate your energy. Instead, invest your energy in trusting Me and singing My Song. The battle for control of your mind is fierce, and years of worry have made you vulnerable to the enemy. Therefore, you need to be vigilant in guarding your thoughts. Do not despise this weakness in yourself since I am using it to draw you closer to Me. Your constant need for Me creates an intimacy that is well worth all the effort.” (Isaiah 12:2; Romans 8:6,9)

“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