

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 12, 2016

“One of them [a man with leprosy], when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” Luke 17:15-19 (NIV)

Our hearts can feel thankful, but until we take the time to express our gratitude with a grateful prayer to God, a spoken word of blessing, a note of thanksgiving or a phone call of appreciation—we only conceal what we feel. Verbalized gratitude bends heaven’s ear toward earth while blessing those who hear it from the expressed heart.

Leprosy is a debilitating and painful disease, from slow growing bacteria causing a loss of feeling in the arms and legs, along with muscle weakness. In Jesus’ day not only was this condition hideous to the eyes—an inflicted person was ostracized from the community. At the very moment the sick individual needed care and support—they were isolated. So, healing by Jesus was an extraordinary relief for the ten lepers—an event that pricked a scared society’s soul. A hug from a healthy person felt awkward—aches were replaced by joy! Remarkably, the twice shunned foreigner took time to thank Jesus. **Love enjoys the gift, but also thanks the gift giver!**

“She was forgiven many, many sins, and so she is very, very grateful. If the forgiveness is minimal, the gratitude is minimal.” Then he spoke to her: “I forgive your sins.” Luke 7:47-48 (MSG)

Does the experience of Christ’s deep cleansing in your soul erupt with life-giving gratitude, praise and thanksgiving? The more you fear the ugly nature of sin and its debilitating effect on your relationship with God, the more you feel forgiven, elevating within a greater love and appreciation. Exuberant expressions of gratitude draw attention to God and His healing heart.

Who needs to hear you say, “Thank you”, “I appreciate you” or “I thank the Lord for you”? Say it. Say it soon and say it often. Write a note. Leave a voicemail. Send a text or email. Sow little seeds of appreciation and watch them grow like untamed kudzu (those from down south especially Atlanta will know what kudzu is ☺). Most of all, express your heartfelt gratitude with imperfect praise of your perfect heavenly Father in private and public worship. Go back again and again to the foot of the cross where your spirit found footing by faith in God. Wholehearted worship is the epitome of expressed gratitude to the Lord for salvation in Jesus.

“With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: ‘He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.’ And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord.” (Ezra 3:11)

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “When your sins weigh heavily upon you, come to Me. Confess your wrongdoing, which I know all about before you say a word. There are hurting parts of you that I desire to heal; however, some of them have been with you so long that you consider them part of your identity. Only repeatedly exposing them to My healing Presence will bring you long-term freedom. When that happens, you will be released to experience Joy in much fuller measure.” (1 John 1:7; Isaiah 61:10; John 8:12)

“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