

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 5, 2016

“When Joshua had grown old, the Lord said to him, “You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over.” Joshua 13:1 (NIV)

Christians may retire from their career, but they can still engage as a volunteer or start a fresh new second career. Simply doing nothing and spending all on self-indulgence is not an option for followers of Jesus. Another way of looking at or thinking about “Retirement”, is a reallocation of your calendar, cash and expertise. More time for grandchildren, yes! More time for exercise, sort of (smile). More time for travel, yes. But mostly, more opportunity to engage with God’s heart as a joyful giver, mentor, teacher, server—to be hospitable and pray.

Joshua had grown old and could have faded off into the sunset and died, but the Lord wasn’t finished with him yet. Though he had experienced the miracles of God as Moses’ apprentice and won battles to take possession of the Promised Land as Israel’s leader—the Lord had another assignment for him. So, Joshua stayed involved in the distribution of land for the various tribes. He established Cities of Refuge, for people to find asylum. Some of Joshua’s best work occurred in his twilight years. His was reallocation not retirement!

“Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.” (Psalm 71:18)

Pray carefully, but think boldly about a golden season of life with a compelling purpose. If you enjoy travel, mission work could be a very meaningful time to go deep with relationships from other cultures. If you love children and are a good organizer you might spend part of your work week at a school in the children’s church ministry.

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Visit hospitals, prisons or tutor students who need extra patience and instruction. A meaningful life’s vocation followed by worthwhile volunteerism causes you to come alive for God and others. Give more than you get! If you focus on earthly rewards—they are your reward, but if you focus on eternal rewards, there’s much more to look forward to from the best Rewarder—your Heavenly Father.

A Christ centered life keeps you centered on what really matters most: knowing and doing God’s Word, loving and serving people, praise and worship of Jesus and generosity of time and money. A soul led by faith is strengthened during sickness, peaceful when threatened by pain and hopeful when facing death. Invest in the eternal, so when the pace of life slows—your spirit grows much richer.

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “I am training you in steadiness. Too many things interrupt your awareness of Me. I know that you live in a world of sight and sound, but you must not be a slave to those stimuli. Awareness of Me can continue in all circumstances, no matter what happens. This is the steadiness I desire for you. Don’t let unexpected events throw you off course. Rather, respond calmly and confidently, remember that I am with you. This is how I live in you and work through you. This is the way of Peace.” (Psalm 112:7; Thessalonians 5:17; Isaiah 41:10)

“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