

ALL IN TO BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE

“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us: therefore we His servants will arise and build...So we built...for the people had a mind to work. A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children...” **Nehemiah 2:20; 4:6; Proverbs 13:22**
(NKJV)



This Week’s Thought – June 25, 2017

“But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills.” Psalm 73:2-5 (NIV)

Of course, having no struggles at all will never happen in this lifetime! A no-struggle existence is not possible until you graduate to heaven’s ‘struggleless’ environment with the Savior. The righteous and the wicked both struggle to varying degrees. No one is exempt from struggles. Yes, there may be seasons of minimal conflict but struggles are on the way. You are either struggling, about to struggle, or have just finished struggling. Therefore, don’t spend your life trying to insulate yourself from struggles.

You will stress out more from trying to avoid struggles, than you will from accepting their reality. This is not to say God would have us ask for or invite struggles into our life, but He does understand that struggles are meant to send us to Him. Struggles look for a Savior, and Jesus is our friend in our fight against struggles.

Envy can erode your eternal perspective by giving you a false impression of others who seem to live lives without struggles. This is inaccurate and ill-conceived. No amount of money or power can completely drive struggles from someone’s life. In fact, it may compound struggles because of the complexity of choices that are created. Someone’s large amount of discretionary time may, on the surface, give the appearance that they are without struggles. Not true. There are still the internal struggles of sin and self against God’s best. Then there are the external struggles created by other people’s choices and circumstances that can affect a person, even though the circumstances are out of their control.

That is why sometimes it is prudent to ask for support in a struggle(s), through prayer. Paul requested this when he wrote, *“I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.”* (Romans 15:30)

Struggles are meant to grow you in God, not drive you away from God. Use struggles to your advantage, rather than to your disadvantage. Struggles do not mean you are less spiritual. It may be that just the opposite is true. Because of your sensitivity to obeying God, you may struggle. You may struggle over the misunderstanding others have over your love for Christ. You may struggle because of the mistreatment by those convicted by your lifestyle. You may struggle to forgive because of the unforgiveness that is extended back to you.

Regardless of what your struggle might be, take it to the Lord and use them as an asset rather than a liability in your relationship with Him. **Lean on prayer to persevere through this time of struggle, because struggles are about survival of the faithful.** You are not alone in your struggle against sin, self, and Satan. Therefore, stay true to the task of disciplined devotion to Christ and be with those who survived their struggles by the grace of God. His grace is sufficient no matter what the struggle. **Don’t seek to be struggle free. Rather, accept struggles in stride, with His greater purpose in mind. God uses your struggles for His glory!**

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12)

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear God, sometimes this world can be a puzzling place, filled with uncertainty and doubt. When I am unsure of my next step, keep me mindful that You are always near and that You can overcome any challenge. With Your love and Your power, Father, I can live courageously and faithfully, today and everyday. Lord, make me a source of genuine, lasting encouragement to my family, loved ones and friends. Today, I will celebrate Your blessings and I will share Your Good News with all those who cross my path. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus. Amen!”

“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