

## **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 – October 1, 2017***

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*“How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”* 1 Kings 18:21 (NIV)

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The LORD calls His people to a singular devotion, loyalty, and love. He desires that we love Him above all else. That we look to Him for our identity, hope, and joy. Yet our hearts are so often divided, frequently pulled in different directions. It isn’t that we outright reject the LORD or His plan for our lives, it’s usually far more subtle. We instead try and place Him alongside other interests and pursuits, and herein lies the problem.

In 1 Kings, Elijah calls Israel back to an undivided love and devotion to God. In essence, he says “*stop playing games.*” If Baal is as great as you say and think he is, then follow him! On the other hand, if the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is truly the LORD God, then follow Him! But stop thinking that this middle way is going to lead you into a place of peace and flourishing.

The hard word of the Bible to us today is that wavering in our devotion to Christ is, in the words of Elijah, the same as “*abandoning the LORD’s commands.*” (1 Kings 18:18) True discipleship is never one option amongst many. Our lives are not a collection of interests and pursuits, with “*religion*” being a box that we check off on the list from time to time. We cannot waver between multiple options. If the LORD is God, follow Him!

*“Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.”* (Luke 14:33)

God has made you in His image and wants you to enter into His very life. He invites you to know what it means to be perfectly loved and accepted; to be healed and restored in every possible way.

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Yet when we place Him alongside our careers, our relationships, or our leisurely pursuits, we reject this invitation and in effect say *“I’m not sure you’re worthy of my entire life, so I’ll keep you as an option, but one amongst many.”* May we see afresh the LORD’s goodness and mercy to us and follow him as LORD all of our days.

*“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”* (Psalm 23:6)

**Application:** Are there areas of your life where you are wavering in your devotion to Christ?

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** *“Heavenly Father, may everything I do begin with Your inspiration and continue with Your wisdom, knowledge, grace and mercy. Guide me in the light of Your truth to the ways of Christ. For left to myself I cannot do Your will. Let my work always find its origin in You, and through You reach completion. As one of Your followers, I will seek to reject whatever is contrary to the gospel and in all my ways acknowledge You. 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