

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 15, 2017

“The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.” Psalm 14:2 (NIV)

Because life can be so busy, there are days when I feel like I have to take a vacation from my cell phone, e-mail, and all the other technology that sometimes feels like it controls our daily lives. The great news however, is that no matter how complicated life becomes, God’s invitation for His children remains uncomplicated:

“Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

Isn’t that awesome!?! It is astounding to think that the Creator of the Universe invites us to discover Him in a more authentic way through the practice of entering into solitude and silence. This is where we find Him most. When we—even if it’s for a short time—leave the busy world behind.

In her book, *An Invitation to Solitude and Silence*, Ruth Haley Barton writes:

“The invitation to solitude and silence is . . . an invitation to enter more deeply into the intimacy of relationship with the One who waits just outside the noise and busyness of our lives. It is an invitation to communication and communion with the One who is always present even when our awareness has been dulled by distraction. It is an invitation into the adventure of spiritual transformation into the deepest places of our being, an adventure that will result in greater and greater freedom and authenticity and surrender to God than we have yet experienced.”

Although God’s invitation involves such beautiful transformation, I have to admit there have been times when the thought of entering into it has felt unsettling and perhaps even a little scary. Why do you think it sometimes make us uncomfortable?

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One reason is that entering into it means that we not only commune with God, but we are forced to commune with our own hearts. The truth is that can be difficult, because we may become aware of things about ourselves we don’t like. As His Word “*judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*” (Hebrews 4:12) In her book (An Invitation to Solitude and Silence) Barton also writes, “In silence we become aware of inner dynamics we have not been able to avoid by keeping ourselves noisy and busy.”

Honest communion with God in solitude and silence also means coming to the end of ourselves. It means admitting that those things we have tried to do to control our lives and satisfy the thirst in our souls hasn’t worked. This leads us to a crisis of choice: we can stop running frantically from this promise of happiness to that one, from this false god to that one, and quietly settle ourselves at the Master’s feet. The only place where our souls can ever truly find rest is at the Master’s feet; or we can continue to pretend that we aren’t desperate—and we’ll miss out on the transformative power of getting alone with God.

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Application: Will you take a few minutes today to enter into the beauty of solitude and silence to commune with the One who loves you and wants to transform you? Spend some time alone with God today and thank Him for being there for you whenever you call. Then listen for His voice through His Word and prayer.

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “Seek My Face, and you will find not only My Presence but also My Peace. To receive My Peace, you must change your grasping, controlling stance to one of openness and trust. The only thing you can grasp without damaging your soul is My Hand. Ask My Spirit within you to order your day and control your thoughts, for the mind controlled by the Spirit is Life and Peace. You will never run out of things to worry about, but you can choose to trust Me no matter what!” (Romans 8:6; Numbers 6:26; Psalm 46:1-2)

“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