

## **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 – November 26, 2017***

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*“But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.” James 1:25 (NIV)*

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When what you do flows out of what you believe there is freedom. Freedom...knowing the security of your salvation is based on faith in the gospel of Jesus. Freedom from guilt, knowing when your conduct aligns with what you believe your conscious is free. Freedom from hurt, knowing the grace of God brings healing to your heart. Freedom...knowing the Holy Spirit fills and empowers your soul to find sustaining strength for life's journey!

James gives a very insightful, one sentence treatise into the truth of the Christian life. He describes how the creed of what we believe is to define the deeds of what we do. As we look intently into the perfect law of the gospel, our continued gaze on God produces faith's fruit of good deeds; and, as we continue in this lifestyle of loving the Lord and obeying the Lord we will be blessed in the very act of doing. The Holy Spirit overwhelms us with blessings as we do good!

*“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.” (Psalm 1:1-3)*

Do you take time to intently look into the things of God? You may possess faith, but does your faith possess you? Without the exercise of your faith applying what you hear and see, you only work against intimacy with Christ.

Knowledge about God is like fertilizer, you can store it up in the barn of your mind: proudly stacked, dried up and useless or you can spread it across the field of life and make other lives grow and flourish. Faith without works finds freedom elusive!

Best of all---you are blessed in the process of blessing others. The Lord prepares you to be a blessing in your “**being time**” and then He blesses you during your “**doing time**”. In due time others become infected by faith in Christ and the cycle of becoming a blessing multiplies, as the Spirit draws and makes disciples through your love and obedience. Never forget works follow belief. First, lay the foundation of faith in Jesus then build custom rooms of good works!

*“For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 3:9-11)

**Application:** What act of kindness or compassion can I quietly do today to bless another?

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** “Lord God, thank You for all the kindness You have shown me. Thank You, Father, for Your great love in giving me my life. For Your great patience in preserving me despite my sinfulness. For Your protection in the past and for the opportunity to serve and honor You, being a blessing to others. Thank You Lord Jesus for keeping me countless times from sin and death by the works of Your life; the sufferings of Your Passion, and by Your victorious resurrection. Thank You, Oh Lord, for bestowing so many graces upon my soul and for having so frequently renewed Your life within me. I pray that my life will forever be a sign of Your greatness and of my gratefulness. 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