

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 19, 2017

“For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:30-31 (NIV)

Right now, someone may be in debt to you. They may owe you money, an apology, a job, a childhood, etc.; but God is asking you to let go and let Him handle this. He has a payment plan for those who are in debt to His children. It may mean He wipes their slate clean with minimal repercussions. It may mean their stiff neck forces Him to bring them to the end of themselves through trials and tribulations. It may mean that what awaits them is an eternity of reaping in hell what has been sown on earth. The point is, God is the only One whose position is one of judge and jury. You do not have to carry this burden or responsibility. Your role is to forgive and to trust God with the proper judgment and consequence.

Life gets complicated and draining when we take on the responsibility of making sure a person gets what he/she deserves. How can we know what others deserve for their injustices, neglect, and self-absorption? Our role is not to play God, but to serve God. Playing God is a never-ending disappointment. We were not made for that role. Only the Almighty can fill those shoes, and He does have it under infinite wisdom and control. There is no foolishness or blatant injustice that is off His radar screen of sensitivity. He picks up on everything...big or small!

So, rest in the assurance of knowing God will pay back in His good timing and in His good way. Give that person or issue over to God. Do not bear the responsibility of executing payback time. Your role is to forgive and let go. God’s role is to establish a payment plan of justice and judgment. Sin has its own harvest of heartache, not to mention breaking the heart of the heavenly Father. Trust God with your cares, concerns, thoughts and feelings for payback. Let Him worry about what they deserve.

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You can bring reconciliation to a fractured situation or relationship by forgiving. Once you have forgiven, trust God to administer whatever punishment He sees as fitting. He may see a broken and contrite heart in your offender that leads to their salvation and freedom in Christ. Your forgiveness and unconditional love may be the very thing God uses to illustrate what they can experience up close and personal. Forgive and give. Forgive them of their hurt, insensitivity, and selfishness; then give them over to God. Trust Him with His repayment plan. He owns the payback process. His vengeance may be swift, it may be delayed, or it may be dissolved. Regardless, you do the right thing, and trust God to do the same.

Vengeance is His, not ours. Payback time is up to God. We have enough in our own lives to consider. Pray for yourself and others to avoid falling into the hands of the living God, for it is a dreadful thing. The Bible says, *“Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.”* (Romans 12:19)

Application: Who do I feel the need to pay back for taking something very precious from me? How in the Spirit’s strength can I forgive them and love them in spite of their offensive actions?

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: *“Dear God, I pray that I will have a new, God-given perspective and communication that will help me relate to the people in my life in a more positive way. I pray that I am a light of Your love, and that I am strong enough in You that I seek not to change others to my point of view but to bless them where they are. I pray for the gift of Divine understanding, and I seek to demonstrate that understanding in my day-to-day interactions with others as a positive influence in their lives. I pray that I have the power to forgive, to release seeming wrongs of the past, and to walk forward into a new day of positive in every area in my life. 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