

## *Theme for 2018*

# **WE ARE THE ARMY OF GOD & WE ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS!**

*“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)*



## ***This Week’s Thought – January 28, 2018***

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*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (NIV)*

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We all have our share of problems. Problems with people. Problems with finances. Problems with our health. Problems at work. Problems with family and issues that randomly arise, etc.

Jesus, right before the problematic events of His arrest and death, talked of His peace. He knew after His death on the cross His followers would bear their cross. The Lord prepared His disciples for the problems to come by reminding them of the inner calm from being in Christ. Even a good life in this world will experience bad or difficult things; but we can take heart if we have given our heart to Jesus. **In Christ is the peace of Christ.**

*“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)*

What problem has threatened, or even taken away your peace? A strong willed child, an unforeseen expense, illness or an unexpected change can be the culprits creating your anxiety. Maybe even your faith has placed you in a vulnerable situation. The world can be mean and downright rude to righteous behavior. Darkness becomes uncomfortable and defensive when exposed by the light. Peace and calm are rudders for your faith in the face of criticism. **Stay calm and trust Jesus to work it out.**

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However hard our situation, our Savior’s peace is accessible. Take a deep spiritual breath: inhale Christ’s peace and exhale anxiety. In this world we will always have problems, and in Christ we will always have peace. The Christian life is a dual track of problems and peace. Thus, as we face our troubles, we choose to trust the Lord to see us through. We keep our gaze on God and see our problems as stepping stones to intimacy with the Almighty. Our peace in Christ overcomes the world and protects us from being overcome by the world. Rest in His peace!

*“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”*  
(Isaiah 26:3)

**Application:** What problems are you facing that requires an extra dose of God’s peace?

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** “Dear Lord, Your ways are past finding out. Just when I think I understand Your direction, I discover that a new level of trust in Your purposes is necessary. As I look back, I realize that You have never let me down, though it often appeared that way when I was going through trials. As I look ahead, I rest in Your good will for my life. Mine is only an illusion of control—all things are really in Your hands. By Your grace and mercy I will believe that what You say is true, even when it seems hard or makes no sense to me. You have called me to trust in You, not to understand all Your ways. Nothing is impossible with You, and I will confidently hope in what You have promised. 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