

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 – February 18, 2018

“For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Galatians 1:10 (NIV)

At times in our Christian walk we might lose our footing, or we become paralyzed with fear over the “what if’s” of life...especially when it comes to moving forward toward the dream or vision that God has placed in your heart. Deep down you don’t want to look foolish and/or you fear the criticism of others. Maybe you are waiting for someone to encourage you or validate you.

No matter who you are, or what you want to accomplish, the only driving force you need to move toward your purpose is the Holy Spirit.

“If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

Even Jesus knew when to ignore naysayers who wanted to prevent Him from accomplishing God’s plan for His life. In Luke 4:30, those in His hometown became furious when He said He was sent by God. To destroy Him, they drove Him out of town to the top of a hill so they could throw Him over a cliff. What did Jesus do? He walked through the crowd and went on His way; because He knew who He was and who His Father was. He decided He would fulfill His purpose, even if no one but His Father agreed.

Sometimes the best way to move on to God’s plan for you is to ignore negative evaluations and comments, and just like Jesus, go merrily on our way. Can you imagine what Christ’s life on earth would have been like if He had been self-protective and feared criticism?

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He would have kept His mouth shut when He was falsely accused. He would have defended Himself. When His enemies spit in His face, He would have retaliated. When they called Him names, He would have called down a legion of angels to defend Him. When they marched Him to Golgatha, He would have run. Thus, rather than laying down His life for all those He loved, the redemption of the human race would have been lost in His misguided passion of self-protection and the fear of criticism.

When we fear criticism and are overly self-protective, we can miss out on being a gift to others. You see, what God wants you to accomplish is not just about you; it’s about many people that God wants to influence and help through you. Ask the Lord to give you the strength you need to move forward in faith in the face of criticism. And remember, you are living your life for the approval of just One.

“But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’” (Acts 5:29)

Application: Write one phrase that stood out to you from this *‘This Week’s Thought’* and place it somewhere you can focus on it each day this week. Live for the approval of the just One, so no one can steal your joy.

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: **“I am leading you step by step, through your life. Hold My hand in trusting dependence, letting Me guide you through this day. Whenever you find yourself worrying about the future, look to Me. I will show you the next step forward, and the one after that, and the one after that. Relax and enjoy the journey in My Presence, trusting Me to open up the way before you as you go.”** (Deuteronomy 29:29; Luke 12:25-26; Psalm 32:8)

“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