First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 April 29, 2018

## *Theme for 2018* <u>WE ARE THE ARMY OF GOD &</u>

## 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 – April 29, 2018

"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:17-18 (NIV)

Who is your number-one influencer? Is it your spouse or significant other? Is it a friend or family member? Is it a parent or grandparent? Is it a sibling or mentor? While all of these are important and influential, the truth is for all us, is that we should desire the number-one influencer in our life to be the Holy Spirit. He is the one whose advice is always full of integrity and truth. When we are Spirit led, we can be confident of an outcome that mirrors God's will.

It is easy to be influenced by a culture whose standards are below what is best, but Spirit-led living does not linger long around unwise activities, places or people. Never allow an individual or anything to replace the Holy Spirit as your most-important influencer. Sometimes a friend or maybe even a family member will suggest one thing, and God's Spirit suggests another. Go with God! His promptings are meant to triumph any attractive offer that may tease your emotions. Trust the Spirit's leading.

"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." (Romans 8:5)

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It may be hard for you to follow the influence of your Heavenly Father because your earthly father may have abandoned his responsibilities; however, the Spirit of your Father in Heaven is trustworthy and true. He never leaves you or forsakes you. His Holy Spirit is sensitive to exactly what you need, when you need it. He is reliable.

So, once you have confessed and repented of your sin, ask Him for the fullness of His Spirit to flood your soul. The Spirit of God flushes out the foolishness of the flesh and fills it with wisdom from the Lord. The Holy Spirit brings wholeness to your heart and truth to your head. Be intoxicated by the Spirit's influence, and you will walk wisely.

"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ." (Romans 8:9).

**Application:** Do you submit daily to the Holy Spirit's control? Do you surrender your soul daily, asking God to fill you with His Spirit and Power? How do you know when the Spirit leads you?

<u>Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week</u>: "I am taking care of you. Trust Me at all times. Trust Me in all circumstances. Trust Me with all your heart. When you are weary and everything seems to be going wrong, you can still utter these four words: 'I trust You, Jesus!' By doing so, you release matters into My control, and you fall back into security of My everlasting arms. Every day provides many opportunities for you to learn My ways and grow closer to Me. Search for Me as for hidden treasure. I will be found by you." (Proverbs 3:5; Deuteronomy 33:37; Jeremiah 29:13-14)

"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