

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 – May 6, 2018

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22 (NIV)

Indeed, most people know enough truth to live a worthwhile life. They know to be honest and not lie. They know to be content and not covet another person’s house, car, spouse, etc. They know to be patient and wait on the Lord to do a work of grace in a loved one’s life. They know to take responsibility and not blame someone else. They know to believe Jesus and to trust Him with their life.

So, if we know the truth, why do we sometimes struggle with its application? Truth is **RIGHT** and **GOOD!** It’s not just right and good for us to only practice or apply every now and then; or worse, to think we’re living it out, when we’re not. Feeling good or bad, or being educated does not transform behavior. What alters our actions is an inward change expressed in outward obedience. The wonderful benefit of this practical process is that truth applied makes us fully alive.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Truth is like a vaccination—that when administered—prevents you from being infected with foolish living. It is like a life-saving serum applied to sin’s poisonous snakebite—potentially healing you from relational, emotional, physical and spiritual death.

There is no downside to honestly gazing into the mirror of truth—assessing your life—better yet inviting godly friends to look with you, and then by God’s grace, applying truth for change.

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” (2 Corinthians 7:10)

Is there a dark area of your life that needs the bright light of truth to expose it and root it out? Are there bad attitudes and habits you blame on past pain and injustice? If so, lean into the truth and do not be satisfied until truth’s application frees you from mediocre living. Truth applied does make you fully alive—it is a dependable friend who walks with you through wise decision-making. Dismiss dishonest living and invite freedom in honest living. Ask the Lord to reveal truth to you and empower you to live out the truth.

“When you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:21-24)

Application: What truth do you need to embrace and celebrate in the transformation of your life?

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Sometimes Lord I don’t even know what to say, especially when I honestly gaze into the mirror of Truth—assessing my life, or when I am caught in the midst of my faith being shaken and I am so uncertain and doubtful. I turn to You O Lord, because I realize that by myself I will not be able to overcome life’s ambiguities and contradictions. Right now Lord I open my heart, my mind and my spirit to You...to the right attitude and belief when I am confronted with questions of my faith. Give me the courage to face the future with certainty, and the wisdom to follow in the footsteps of Your Son, today and forever. 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