

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 – June 24, 2018

“But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them.” Nehemiah 9:17(c) (NIV)

We serve a gracious God who does not desert us in our time of need, or reject us when we walk away. He knows everything about us, including our innermost secrets, and He still loves us. Our sin breaks His heart, but it does not disqualify us from His grace. David felt this when he prayed to his gracious God, *“Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.”* (Psalm 25:16) Your need is God’s opportunity to extend you grace.

You may ask, “How do I qualify for God’s grace?” Breathe. If you are alive, you qualify. Your gracious God offers buckets of grace at your point of fear, rejection, anger, anguish, dismissal, job loss, loss of a loved one, divorce, addiction, so on and so forth. Indeed, we are all candidates for God’s grace daily; so take the time to appreciate and appropriate His great gift.

In prayer and by faith, receive what your Sovereign Lord offers in abundance. Isaiah says it beautifully: *“O Lord, be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress.”* (Isaiah 33:2)

Moreover, because you have the grace of God at your disposal, be a dispenser of grace. In the heat of relational conflict, it is not about you and your way. It is about the Lord’s way. His remedy for relational angst is grace.

Give grace to the ungracious, and God will bless your efforts with healing and understanding. People who live in fear have no concept or understanding of faith, but your gracious response gives them a glimpse into grace.

When they lash out, listen. When they accuse, forgive. When they are angry, stay calm. When they are critical, pray for them. When they give up, be there for them. *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”* (1 Peter 4:10) Grace is the ‘governor’ that keeps the relational engine running smoothly. Be a grace giver, and you will never lack people to love!

Application: Do you regularly receive a fresh infusion of God’s grace into your mind, soul, and spirit? Do you liberally live out grace and give grace to the ungracious and undeserving?

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: **“Learn to live above your circumstances. This requires focused time with Me, the One who overcame the world. Trouble and distress are woven into the very fabric of this perishing world. Only My Life in you can empower you to face this endless flow of problems with good cheer. As you sit quietly in My Presence, I shine Grace and Peace into your troubled mind, heart and spirit. Little by little, you are freed from earthly shackles and lifted up above your circumstances. Rest in My Presence, receiving Joy, Grace and Peace that no one can take away from you.”**
(John 16:33; Psalm 42:5; John 16:22)

“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