

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 – July, 1 2018

“My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God...At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.” Psalm 69:3b, 13b (NRSV)

There are seasons of life in which God seems closer than a best friend. We know He is near and receive the gift of His presence with joy and thanksgiving. You may find yourself in this place this very moment, and for that you can give thanks. However, I find that many today wake up to incredible heartache, grief, and loss, and wonder why God seems so distant and absent from their pain and grief.

One of my favorite things about the Psalms is their ability to express the full range of human emotion. Within the same book of the Bible you find the highest of heights and the lowest of lows. There we find unspeakable joy, affection, and delight, as well as severe anger, inconsolable grief, and seemingly unanswered prayers. In today’s Psalm, we find steadfast hope and trust in the face of heartache, fear, and doubt.

Do you have prayers that you’ve prayed your entire life yet still struggle to see God’s Hand at work? Prayers for healing from long-term illness and chronic pain. Prayers for the salvation of a lost family member or co-worker. Prayers for reconciliation of a relationship that was once close yet has been strained or broken for decades. You may find yourself resonating with the words from Psalm 69 today: *“My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.”*

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When we find ourselves in this place, we are faced with a significant decision. Do we doubt God’s goodness and faithfulness and stop praying and trusting as a result, or do we persevere with courage and deep faith, trusting that He is good and will never abandon His people or His promises. When faced with this decision, the psalmist prays a profound prayer that each of us can pray as well. *“At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.”*

This prayer acknowledges God’s timing is perfect and isn’t always aligned with our preferred timetable. It acknowledges that in God there is a great abundance of steadfast love. His posture towards us is goodness, faithfulness and love; and if this is true, we have faith that God hears and answers our prayers.

Application: What prayers have you given up on praying that you need to continue to pray with perseverance and hope?

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: *“I, the Creator of the Universe, am with you and for you. What more do you need? When you feel some lack, it is because you are not connecting with Me at a deep level. I offer abundant Life; your part is to trust Me, refusing to worry about anything. It is not so much the adverse events that make you anxious, as it is your thoughts about those events. Your mind engages in efforts to take control of a situation, and your thoughts close in on the problem. You forget that I am in control of your life. The only remedy is to switch your focus from the problem to My Presence.”* (Romans 8:31-32; Micah 7:7; 1 Corinthians 12:3)

“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