

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 – September 9, 2018

“Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.”

John 1:45-46 (NIV)

Have you ever wanted something that may take a lifetime to achieve? Something that you long for in the deepest part of your being, yet you know it may take years or decades for it to be true; but not a day goes by that you don’t think about it, long for it, and work towards it. It could be a relationship, a career, freedom from physical or emotional pain, a financial breakthrough, etc.

For the people of Israel, all of their hopes and longings were caught up in the promise that God would free them from their oppressors and restore to them the hope of land and life lived under His rule and reign. Jesus was born into a time in Israel’s history when this dream was at an all-time low. Though they still held out hope, God had been (seemingly) distant and uninvolved for centuries while they lived in oppression from foreign rule. As each generation came and went, the hopes and expectations of God keeping His promises seemed to grow consistently fainter and weaker, so much so, that when God does give them what they most deeply desire, they are skeptical, doubtful, and refuse to believe.

Jesus did not fit the mold of their longed-for Messiah. They expected a strong and mighty warrior who was ready to lead a revolution of freedom, yet what they got was a humble handyman from the countryside. God answered their prayer, yet their expectations were so radically different that they nearly missed God’s provision as a result!

September 9, 2018

Have you ever been so set in your expectations of how something will play out, that when God does provide, you struggle to see His faithfulness and goodness? Are you willing to adjust your desires and expectations in light of God’s unfolding plan and provision? Do you believe that His plans are always best and will lead to a flourishing life of peace and joy?

When you find yourself doubting God’s goodness or faithfulness, wondering how this could possibly be the answer to His promise, press in closer to the life of God and stay near to His heart of love. When we draw near to Jesus, our trust deepens and courage grows. If you find your faith faltering today, remember what Philip said to Nathaniel the skeptic: “*Come and see.*”

Application: Where have your preconceived expectations kept you from seeing God’s faithfulness in your life? Ask God to help you to trust His goodness and to receive His provision with a joyful and grateful heart.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Heavenly Father, You said in Your Word (Matthew 6:31-33) for me not to worry about having enough food, drink and clothing...for You already know perfectly well that I need them and You will provide them. But I must seek You first or give You first place in my life and live as You want me to; so today I again give You first place and I refuse to worry about anything. I know You will continue to supply whatever I need because You promised You would in Your Word. Thank You for Your abundant provision and supply. 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