

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 – December 9, 2018

“Praise the Lord. Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands.”
Psalm 112:1 (NIV)

Praise to the Lord and fear of the Lord are foundational for a fulfilling life. This is the focus of a child of God in love with and loyal to his or her Heavenly Father. Worship of Jesus causes the eyes of faith to see Him in His Shekinah glory. His great love secures the soul, and His hallowed holiness pierces the heart, resulting in joy and reverence for God.

Moses encountered God at the burning bush: *“Do not come any closer,” God said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’ Then he said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.’ At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.”* (Exodus 3:5–6)

When Christ is the core of a belief system, the natural outcome is peace, joy, and happiness. The Almighty God through Christ gives His children His promises, so we can walk by faith, trusting that He will do what He said He would do. Lasting peace and calm come only from Christ. Jesus gives us peace of mind when others angrily give us a piece of their mind. Happiness comes from resting in eternal expectations, not craving earthly ones.

Jesus said, *“Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.... Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.”* (John 16: 20, 22)

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It is in the presence of Jesus that joy wells up in our inner being. Circumstances and other menacing culprits cannot take away His joy and happiness. We bow our heads in fear of the Lord and then lift our eyes toward Heaven in worship of the Lord. In worship, as we are overwhelmed by His majestic glory, we are delighted to follow Christ’s commands.

“Blessed, happy, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable is the one “whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law, day and night.” (Psalm 1:2)

There are many who ask and often wonder, *“What is the secret to happiness in this life?”* Well, a simple, straight forward answer is, *‘It is holding with an open hand the temporal and grasping with a firm hand of faith the eternal. It is an unwavering focus on God.’* If your joy is gone, replace your fears with the fear of the Lord. Joy follows submission to Jesus.

“As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, ‘Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.’ He replied, ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.’” (Luke 11:27–28).

Application: In the midst of this Advent Season, ponder and challenge yourself with a question this week, “Am I happy over what brings happiness to the Lord’s heart? Do I joyfully obey Jesus?” Then seek to worship God in the glory of His holiness. Bless and praise Him in every circumstance for His faithfulness and His mercy toward you!

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 Peace into your troubled mind and heart. Little by little, you are freed from earthly shackles and lifted up above your circumstances. Rest in My Presence, receiving Joy 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