

## **EXPERIENCING the POWER of “ONE ACCORD”**

*“...they lifted up their voice to God with one accord...And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:24, 31-33 (KJV)*



### ***This Week’s Thought – January 24, 2016***

---

***“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)***

---

There have been times when we all have been guilty of trying to put God in a blessing box. What I mean is, we have decided where and how He will be able to bless us. Maybe you have thought or said things like, **“Lord I will be blessed if I live in Florida, but not in Ohio.” “I will be blessed if I have a job using my gifts and talents, but not if I am in a job I don’t enjoy.” “I will be blessed if I am employed, but not if I must be unemployed.” “I will be blessed if I had more money, but not if I am penniless.” “I will be blessed if I am married, but not single.”**

The Bible is filled with stories in which people tried to put God in a blessing box. He didn’t stick to their plan, but He blessed them all the same in ways they hadn’t imagined. Many had things happen to them that they would not have chosen for themselves, things that would have made it seem as if God’s blessings had been forfeited. The story of Joseph is one such example. As I was reading it this week, Genesis 39:1 jumped off the page.

***“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt....” (NIV)***

He had been taken. Not, *“He decided that he wanted to go, so he went.”* He had no choice. Certainly there could not have been a blessing in that box, right? Of course, we know there was because we know the end of Joseph’s story, but Joseph didn’t know there was a blessing while he was in the middle of his messy story.

January 24, 2016

Genesis 40:15 reveals that Joseph didn’t understand God was secretly at work to bless him and use him to be a blessing when he said, “For I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here have I done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.”

It was only years later, after his brothers showed up, and after he remembered his dreams (Genesis 42:9) that he realized God had done a great work, not in spite of, but because he had been taken down to Egypt against his will. God cannot be put in a blessing box, no matter what happens to us, and no matter how the story of our lives unfolds. He has ways of working things out in ways we would not have imagined, even when our story is mess, and even when it is not what we would have chosen for ourselves. This is great news for all of us who want to control our lives. God cannot be put in a blessing box. He is always at work, all the time, and His love never fails. (Psalm 136:1)

***“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1***

Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

**Words from the Master during your time of reflection is week: “Strive to trust Me in more an dmore areas of your life. Anything that tends to make you anxious is a growth opportunity. Instead of running away from these challenges, embrace them, eager to gain all the blessings I have hidden in the difficulties. If you believe that I am sovereign over aspects of your life, it is possible to trust Me in all situations. Don’t waste energy regretting the way things ate or thinking about what might have been. Tart at the present moment – accepting things exactly as they are---and search for My way in the midst of those circumstances.**

**Trust is life a staff you can lean on as you jorney uphill with Me. If you are trusting in Me consistently, the staff will bear as much of your weight as needed. Lean on, trust and confident in me with all your heart and mind.” (Psalm 52:8: Proverbs 3:5-6 AMP)**

***“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