

## **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 31, 2016***

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***“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues out on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” Colossians 3:13-14 (NIV)***

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Those who criticize the Christian code, character and values as outdated, narrow minded and meddling, forget that the virtues they seek to marginalize are a timeless value system that provides them the freedoms they enjoy. Yes, freedom of speech is a freedom only exercised where liberty has been bought by blood and retained by virtuous living, One generation can quickly forget past generational struggles and sacrifices that developed present day prosperity. Devalued virtue leads to self-indulgence and corruption, but, a culture that values virtue expands liberty and creates opportunities for all.

Scripture identifies virtue as the very heart of God: patient forgiveness bound together by love’s unifying perfection. The Lord’s ultimate virtue was the payment of His son Jesus on the cross in exchange for the sins of the human race. Love gives. Love forgives. Love unifies. Voices that dismiss Christian virtues are not motivated by love, but by selfish agendas. A life behaving badly looks for ways to justify their disingenuous actions; however, a life that values virtue seeks to know God and grow in His hear of love. Virtue’s value is defined by the inordinate price paid by God.

***“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report,***

***if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – mediate on these things.”***

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

Man’s progress is dismissing Christian morals will one day awake from its deceitful slumber smothered by a crumbling culture unable to revive free speech that has been quietly choked out by a totally self-indulgent society. Like a fitful spoiled child who gets all and more than they demand, so is an entitled elite who manipulates their way into creating a national moral chaos. So, what are God-fearing Christians to do? We prayerfully, and by god’s grace, raise the bar of virtuous living in our own individual worlds. We love liberally. We forgive quickly. We value virtue by being virtuous.

We esteem virtue when we value relationship over results. Our treatment of each other of higher priority than self-promotion or ill gain. Social environments with a culture of Christian virtues experience excellent outcomes with compelling productivity. People treated with dignity and respect, treat others with dignity and respect: family friends, associates, co-workers, customers, vendors, potential clients, volunteers, etc.

***“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”*** Colossians 3:2 (NIV)

***Words from the Master during your time of reflection is week: “Keep your focus on Me. I have gifted you with amazing freedom, including the ability to choose the focal point of your mind. Only the crown of My creation has such capability; this is a sign of being made in My image. Let the goal of this day be to bring every thought captive to me. I guard you and keep you in constant PEACE, as you focus your mind on Me.”*** (Psalm 8:5; Genesis 1:26-27; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Isaiah 26:3)

***“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