

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 – February 21, 2016

“The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.” Revelations 3:5 (NIV)

In general, our society has always marveled at and been awed by professional athletes and artists who engage their God-given abilities, and a focused discipline of ongoing training and practice to perfect their performance. Upward and onward drives their desire to be the best they can be. Well, in similar fashion—as a child of God—we have the opportunity, under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit, to become more and more like Christ in our character development.

In striking imagery the “*one who loved Jesus—John*” describes the victory garments of those who transition from this sin soiled life on earth into the sin sanctified life in heaven. Now adorned with perfected character those dressed in white reflect the glory of God—it’s near blinding, like the sun’s glittering effect on pure driven snow. No more the filthy rags of imperfection, but the cleansed clothes of perfection. Jesus gives us the fabric of His grace, for us to work out the salvation He gives us by faith. **Our character is a work in process on its way to being perfected!**

“And every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” (Philippians 2:11-13)

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Perhaps there is a character flaw that runs in your family, but the Lord Jesus is calling you to a higher standard of conduct. You quickly see this flaw/imperfection in others, because its familiarity in your life elevates it to the surface of your heart and mind. Too often however is an unhealthy action by most, when imperfection calls out imperfection, without an inner call to first repent. The Holy Spirit inspires and instructs the heart’s attire to be attractive reflection of God’s design.

Like a robust community bustles with new construction and detours leading to roadway expansion, so our imperfect character moves forward toward perfection—dirty, messy, smelly progress, but always under construction. One day we will be perfectly like Jesus—as we are conformed into celestial beings of infinite perfection. Victory depends on Him who makes us ‘*more than conquerors*’; and as lovers of God, we still make it our goal to live victorious and purposely and as pure as possible, knowing we are not perfect, yet on our way to being perfected in Christ.

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.” (1 John 3:2-3)

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “Come to Me with all your weaknesses: physical, emotional, psychological, relational, financial and spiritual. Rest in the comfort of My Presence, remembering that *nothing is impossible for Me*. Pry your mind away from your problems and circumstances so you can focus your attention on Me. Recall that I am *able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine*. The bottom line is that I am taking care of you: therefore, you needn’t be afraid of anything. Rather than trying to maintain control over your life, abandon yourself to My will.”

(Luke 1:37; Ephesians 3:20-21; Psalm 23:1-4)

“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