

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 – May 22, 2016

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

Paul beautifully describes generous giving as a heart-felt experience led by the Holy Spirit. Giving is an act of worship between Christ and *man*—not a feeling of manipulation from another person or organization. How we handle money is a reflection of what our heart truly treasures: God or money.

“Then he [Jesus] said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.” Luke 12:15 (NLT)

The test of our character does come with the exam of how, why and where we give away money. If we give to get—disappointment stalks us, our reward is earthbound. When we give cheerfully, expecting nothing in return—fulfillment invades us, our rewards extend eternally. Determine in your heart God’s heart, and then follow His heart. His heart is for the poor, so give to the poor. His heart is for the church, so give to the church. His heart is for missions, so give to missions.

When we view giving as worship we are grateful and prayerful. We are grateful because of God’s gift of life, His comfort in death, His support in suffering, His wisdom in decision-making and His assurance of salvation in Jesus. We are prayerful because we desire to give according to God’s will. Who needs our exuberant generosity? Giving as worship gets us to God, who fills our heart with love. When we get down, we can look up and ask the Lord where to cheerfully give. Jesus’ love is unleashed in the life of a joyful giver—the generous feast on the fruit of happiness.

First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor’s Desk

Page 2

May 22, 2016

“If it [your gift] is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” Romans 12:8 (NIV)

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “Let Me fill you with My Love, Joy and Peace. These are ‘Glory-gifts’, flowing from My living Presence. Though you are an *earthen vessel*, I designed you to be filled with heavenly contents. Your weakness is not a deterrent to being filled with My Spirit; on the contrary, it provides an opportunity for My Power to shine forth more brightly. As you go through this day, trust Me to provide the strength you need moment by moment. My Spirit within you is more than sufficient to handle whatever this day may bring. This is the basis for your joy and confidence!”

(2 Corinthians 4:7; Ephesians 3:16; Isaiah 30:15)

“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