

## **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 – June 19, 2016***

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*“For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.” Proverbs 24:16 (NIV)*

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**Failure is not final for the faithful—it is a stepping-stone to success.** The sense of failure is an opportunity for faith to flourish and for pride to be humbled. An extreme letdown allows the Lord to lift up the down hearted and hold them close for comfort. Failure facilitates a crystal clear focus on God and His game plan. It is a bridge to blessing.

Have you failed to be a good provider? To communicate caringly? Follow through with your commitments? Find a job? Love well? Become a consistent Christian? If so, join the club of everyone that breathes. We all struggle from time to time with unholy habits that drag us down and try to keep us there; But, by God’s grace we will stand up, firm in Him.

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today.”* (Exodus 14:13a)

A faith untested is fragile and weak, but a faith forged out of failure is stable and strong. God’s goal is not for you to do away with discomfort or remove all remnants of risk. His heart is to have the heart of His children—for without their heart—He only employs their mind. Your setbacks set you up for intimacy with your heavenly Father.

A challenging relationship or botched business deal(s) are opportunities to move your religion from sterile academics to an engaging relationship with your Creator. You can go through a religious routine and say the right words—but are you truly alive to the Lord? Use failure as a diving board into the deep waters of faith—connect with Christ’s care.

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*“The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.”* (Psalm 146:8b)

Furthermore, avoid self-pity and a victim mindset when you fail to meet the expectations of the Lord and those who know you the best. Embrace your responsibilities; express godly sorrow and vow to learn from your humbling—even embarrassing experience. Overcoming adversity takes time, trust and tenacity—success invests in each.

*“When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down, but even in death the righteous seek refuge in God.”* (Proverbs 14:32)

**Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week:** “Welcome challenging times as opportunities to trust Me. You have Me beside you and My Spirit within you, so no set of circumstances is too much for you to handle. When the path before you is dotted with difficulties, beware of measuring your strength with those challenges. That calculation is certain to riddle you with anxiety. Without Me, you wouldn’t make it past the first hurdle. The way to walk through demanding days is to grip My hand tightly and stay in close communication with Me. Regardless of the day’s problems; I can keep you in perfect Peace as you stay close to Me.” (James 1:2; Philippians 4:13; 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