

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 – August 14, 2016

“Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways.’” Haggai 1:5 (NIV)

‘Careful thought to your ways...’ is living based on what God deems necessary and important. He deserves our very best. Followers of Christ are honored not to give the Lord leftovers, but the first fruits. First fruit giving and living means Jesus receives the best of everything about us. We give Him the best of our time and money. *‘Careful thought to your ways...’* is defining priorities as God defines them and then planning our actions, goals and living around these priorities.

Without intentionally living out God’s priorities, we default to reactionary living. Whatever comes our way then becomes our default for living. This may take less thinking and praying, but it is no way to honor the Lord. *‘Careful thought to your ways...’* asks the question, “Am I defining priorities as God defines priorities and am I living these out for His glory?” Once His priorities are defined the goal is to execute His priorities for His glory.

‘Careful thought to your ways...’ is prayerful living. It is aligning with God’s heart the best you know how and then trusting Him with your time and money. Priority living is giving God, first and foremost, what He deserves and expects from His children. *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* (Matthew 6:33)

‘Careful thought to your ways...’ is Kingdom living. The priorities of God’s Kingdom are clearly stated. The greatest commands are to love Him and to love people (Matthew 22:38-39). Loving God is priority. You spend time with whom you love. It is seeking God’s face daily to love and be loved. It is sending up quick prayers throughout the day as a reminder to ourselves that He is in control and we are not. Indeed, loving God is obeying God. He says, *“If you love me, keep my commands.”* (John 14:15) Obedience is God’s love language.

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Loving God also requires listening to God. You listen to whom you love and respect. God has a lot to say. He is all knowing and all wise. Thus, it is of course very, very worthwhile to listen to your heavenly Father. What is He saying to you through a specific Scripture passage? Priorities for you may vary from the priorities for someone else. Your age and stage of life demand a different focus. Be adaptable and nimble to reprioritize as needed.

‘Careful thought to your ways...’ not only involves loving God, it involves loving people. Our motive is to love them to Jesus. Like Andrew with Peter (John 1:40-42), if we can get them to Jesus, He can handle their needs and wants. Therefore, love takes time. It is an investment. People do not change overnight. We are called to make disciples and disciple making is best implemented in an environment of loving patience. People are a priority. What a privilege and compelling calling to love God and to love people. This is *‘Careful thought to your ways...’* priority living!

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “Keep walking with Me along the path I have chosen for you. Your desire to live close to Me is a delight to My heart. All I require of you is to take the next step, clinging to My hand for strength and direction. Though the path is difficult and the scenery may seem dull at the moment, there are big surprises just around the bend. Stay on the path I have selected for you. It is truly the path of Life.” (Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 37:23-24; Psalm 16:11)

“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