

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 – September 25, 2016

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.” Psalm 111:10 (NIV)

In our spiritual journeys we often look for moments of blissful joy, wonder, and amazement. We attend convicting church services, soul stirring choir concerts, inspiring conferences, etc., and undoubtedly should be quick to thank God for these opportunities. **However**, if these moments aren’t supported by the daily practice of our faith in simple and humble ways, we run the risk of becoming spiritual thrill seekers, always looking for the dramatic encounter of God yet missing His still, small voice. (1 Kings 19:12)

Practicing your faith isn’t a form of works righteousness. There is a great difference between practicing your faith and striving for perfection in your own strength or for selfish gain. Jesus warns directly against this, reminding us to always *“beware of practicing our righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them.”* (Mt. 6:23) However, later on in Matthew’s gospel Jesus warns people against not practicing their faith, speaking against people who *“preach, but do not practice.”* (Mt. 23:3)

A ‘*well-practiced faith*’ isn’t a problem in and of itself. Habits of Christian living, such as prayer and Bible study, are essential for our spiritual health. Yet the goal and aim must never be the appearance of piety or Christian maturity but instead the very life of Christ within us. We must be so desperate for His transforming grace that we know we cannot go a day without Him. We know that our hearts and desires are prone to wander from time to time, and so we must so we must return to Him and sit at His feet, learning again what it means to love and be loved by Him. This is what it means to practice our faith.

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“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” (Phil. 4:9)

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “Worship Me by living close to Me. This was My original design for man, into whom I breathed My very breath of Life. This is My desire for you: that you stay near Me as you walk along your life-path. Each day is an important part of that journey. Although you may feel as if you are going nowhere in the world, your spiritual journey is another matter altogether, taking you along steep, treacherous paths of adventure. That is why walking in the Light of My Presence is essential to keep you from stumbling. By staying close to Me, you present yourself as a living sacrifice. Even the most routine part of your day can be a spiritual act of worship, holy and pleasing to Me.” (Genesis 2:7; Psalm 89:15; Romans 12:1-2)

“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