

ALL IN TO BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE

“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us: therefore we His servants will arise and build...So we built...for the people had a mind to work. A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children...” **Nehemiah 2:20; 4:6; Proverbs 13:22**
(NKJV)



This Week’s Thought – February 19, 2017

“Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV)

God’s joy is free and available for all who will receive. The joy of the Lord is limitless. It is like a wellspring of living water that flows forever. You cannot pump it dry, even if you wanted to. No thirsty soul who has ever tasted God’s joy has been dissatisfied. The weak soul is rejuvenated under the influence of heavenly joy. God’s joy wells up to provide resilience during times of testing. This is the result of tapping into His divine resource. Natural resources deplete over time, but the joy of the Lord is infinite. The joy of the Lord also travels way beyond happiness. Happiness is based on your circumstances; joy is based on your faith in God. Your circumstances will change, and with every change comes the possibility of losing your happiness.

God never changes. Therefore, the chances of losing your joy are nil, if you are focused on the Joy-Giver. Just as you depend on the local power company to provide your home with electricity, so the wise follower of Christ looks to God for his provision of joy. God’s joy is ready and waiting to be deployed into your heart. He is not stingy. Go to the eternal dispenser of joy and receive what the world cannot sustain and money cannot buy: the joy of the Lord; it is your strength. So, how can His joy be retained?

The joy of the Lord comes through the channel of faith. Your faith is bolstered and made alive through the word of God. This joyful energy does not come from a cursory reading of God’s word, but rather a reading for understanding, application, and transformation. Joy explodes from the pages of Scripture as we understand our utter dependence on God and His tender compassion and mercy. Your exposure to the repetition and teaching of the Bible garners understanding. Your understanding of whom God is and what He has done—and is doing—for you, will cause joy to explode in your heart.

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Lastly, joy comes from celebrating God’s faithfulness. Regularly recall the goodness of God. Once you were blind, but now you see. **Your family, your health, your friends, your career, your opportunities, your joy, and countless other blessings are all gifts from God. These precious memories are cause for celebration. This is reason to be joyful. This is the joy of the Lord. This is the source of your strength. Be joyful in Jesus, so you can be strong in your Savior.**

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