

Theme for 2018

WE ARE THE ARMY OF GOD &

WE ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS!

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)



This Week’s Thought – March 11, 2018

“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.” Psalm 16:8 (NIV)

Jesus deserves our undivided attention, yet we must admit that we struggle with distractions from time to time. Our mind might be drawn to musing over pressing issues at work, home, church, etc. that never seem to go away. Our heart engages in emotional cares for others in crisis that we are unable to control. Our eyes might look ahead in worry or sometimes behind in regret. Yet, it is at those pivotal points that we must always keep our eyes fixed on Jesus in prayer and not just on others or ourselves.

Faith makes Christ the center of attention. The eyes of our souls can be blind to belief or they can open wide in anticipation of the Almighty’s faithfulness. If we close our spiritual eyes we extinguish hope and miss our Master’s comfort and instruction. It is when we gaze into the eyes of Jesus that He sees right through us to the heart of the matter. What matters to the Lord, becomes what matters to us. Like reading glasses, the Bible brings into focus the character of Christ. *“Come,”* he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, *“Lord, save me!”* Matthew 14:29-30 (NIV)

We will sink into the waters of doubt if we stare at the winds of worry. We can ‘walk on the water of God’s will’ when we look unto the face of Jesus. Our faith in Christ replaces fear with the fortitude to follow in His footsteps. It is much better for us to be in a raging storm walking toward the Lord, than to be on the dry shore absent His presence.

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Make God the center of your attention and you will persevere through pain, hurt, worry or sorrow. Perhaps you give work less attention, giving more attention to understanding the needs of your family or loved ones. Maybe you spend less time and money on recreation or self-gratification, and more on community service and outreach.

Furthermore, your resolve to lean on the Lord means you will not be shaken by circumstances or conflict. He is your rock of refuge and your strength to endure. Keep Christ the center of your attention and receive His loving attention.

“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” Hebrews 12:1b-2a. (NIV)

Application: Ask the Lord to help you to live in His joy and peace. Ask Him to give you strength and understanding to resist anxiety, anger, envy, depression, bitterness, hopelessness, loneliness, fear and guilt. Refuse to let your life be brought down by negative emotions such as these, by keeping your eyes and attention on the Lord...declaring, **“I will not be shaken by the issues of life!”**

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Lord, when I face the inevitable transitions of life, I will turn to You for strength and assurance. Help me to make choices that are pleasing to You. Help me to follow the teachings of Christ, not just today, but every day of my life. For when the quickening pace of life leaves me little time for worship or praise, help me to reorder my priorities and turn to Jesus for the peace that only He can give. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

“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