First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 September 2, 2018

## 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 – September 2, 2018

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you." **Jeremiah 31:3** (NIV)

Have you ever struggled with letting go of unanswered questions about something that happened in your past, whether physical, emotional, relational, financial, etc.? Have you ever thought that if God would just allow a particular event to happen in your life that you could finally be happy? If so, I pray this weekly devotion encourages you.

There are times when I know I hear God speak into my spirit; but then other times when I'm not sure. There was one afternoon however when I remember that it was clear God wanted my attention. It was one of those moments when He caught me off guard. I wasn't expecting His still, small voice. Just as I bowed my head to pray, He beat me to the punch with a rebuke: "I want you to stop complaining about (...). You're stealing my moments." Ouch!

"Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether." (Psalm 139:4)

I knew exactly what He meant, but the Holy Spirit went on to provide extra-added interpretation:

"Son, these are My moments that I've given you. If you're longing for better days wishing you'd done some things differently, you're not embracing my now. Therefore, you're stealing the moments I've created—those that I'm working in." (Psalm 145:17-19)

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In the same way my complaints/petitions about (...) chained me to the past and prevented me from experiencing the joys of the present, not letting go of unanswered questions about the past does the same.

There's a gentle balance between looking back on your past, especially for any lessons learned, so that you can move on to greater maturity and hope—and holding onto the past and refusing to move on or let some things go. Sadly, there have been times when too many of us have done the latter, and it has created nothing but heartache and pain.

If we refuse to relinquish our questions about the past and demand answers about things we can't change, we'll miss out on the joy of today and hope for the future. Spending life looking through the rearview mirror brings emotional pain. Trusting God with your unanswered questions brings peace.

". . . I will never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5-6)

**Application:** Are you stealing God's moments by complaining or by not releasing or letting go of some things in your past? In each place above where I left blank my own complaint or petition, fill in your own. Ask the Lord to help you fully live in the present where He is at work.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Father God, I want to have persistent faith. When I see a promise in Your Word, I determine in my heart that I will pursue that promise with shameless persistence until I receive what You promised me. In those days when I feel weak or discouraged I will remember what you said in Luke 11:9-10 'And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.' I know that as I draw near to You, You will draw near to me and respond to my cry. Great is Your faithfulness towards me! 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