

## Theme for 2021

### **WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT; WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD!**

#### **‘They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love.’**

*“I have commissioned them to represent me just as you commissioned me to represent you. And now I dedicate myself to them as a holy sacrifice so that they will live as fully dedicated to God and be made holy by your truth.” “And I ask not only for these disciples, but also for all those who will one day believe in me through their message. I pray for them all to be joined together as one even as you and I, Father, are joined together as one. I pray for them to become one with us so that the world will recognize that you sent me. For the very glory you have given to me I have given them so that they will be joined together as one and experience the same unity that we enjoy. You live fully in me and now I live fully in them so that they will experience perfect unity, and the world will be convinced that you have sent me, for they will see that you love each one of them with the same passionate love that you have for me.”*

**John 17:18-23 The Passion Translation (TPT)**



#### ***This Week’s Thought – January 10, 2021***

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*“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” **John 1:6-9***  
(NRSV)

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**“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.”** One of the great mysteries of faith is the fact that God uses sinful, broken people to reveal His glory to the world. John the Baptist, though honorable and faithful in so many ways, was still a flawed human being. However, the strength of his witness was not tied to his personal power but was found in his ability to point others to Christ in and through the way he lived his life. He was not the light, yet he knew it was his calling to testify to the light of Christ.

I wonder, do you believe you have a similar call upon your life? Do you see it as central to the work of each and every Christian to witness and testify, or instead is it the work of the select few, those with “Missionary” or “Evangelist” or “Teacher” or “Pastor” in their title?

January 10, 2021

While some followers of Jesus give their life to evangelistic work and ministry in various sacrificial ways, it doesn’t mean the rest of the Body of Christ is off the hook!

The more we grow in our relationship with Christ, the more we are meant to become like Him. And to be like Christ is to invite others to know and encounter the love of the Father. To allow His light to shine through us in such a way that we neither distract from nor diminish the light, but let it be a source of transformation in those around us.

This is not a requirement to be perfect or without sin. Christ’s light is able to shine even in spite of our weak faith or doubt-filled hearts. And yet, if we will let Him, His light not only shines through us to others, it transforms, heals, and restores us in the process. Simply put, your healing finds full expression when your faith is lived for the sake of others and for the good of your neighbor/fellowman.

The first step of testifying to the light is learning to attentively look for signs of Christ’s work in your life, signs that are often found in simple and easily overlooked places. Something I have started this New Year is asking myself every week, “What has God done for me this week, and what have I done for God?” As simple as those two questions might sound, they are a reflective first step in my seeking to remain thankful and mindful of the aspects of my witness and testimony. I challenge you to do the same and ask yourself these questions, whether daily, weekly, monthly, or whenever you choose. For they teach us to expectantly look for the light of God in our lives, and to share that light with others for their good and His glory!

**Application:** How can you begin to testify (whether at all or even more this New Year) to the light of Christ in your own life and closest relationships?

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** “Dear LORD, as I face my fears, when I am feeling afraid, when I am feeling timid, remind me of who YOU are, and who I am in You. You are strong and courageous, the Almighty King and loving Father. You have said in Your Word that I am to be ‘a witness and testify to the light of Christ’ in all that I do. Empower me with the courage and the strength I need for whatever is placed before me. Remind me of who You have created me to be and what You have empowered me to do. I boldly declare that I will not let fear or intimidation stop me from being obedient. Help me to endure, Lord. Give me grace. You’re a good Father, and You are faithful! This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”

**Yours in Christ, Pastor King**