

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 3, 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021!

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “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!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?””
Matthew 14:28-31 (NIV)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” Matthew tells the story of Jesus and Peter walking on water during a storm. Everyone was in the boat, afraid, not because of the wind, but because they thought Jesus was a ghost. When He identified Himself, Peter said, *“OK, if it’s You, tell me to come to you on the water.”* What amazing faith Peter showed, and so Jesus called him. Peter stepped out in overwhelming faith and walked on water. We don’t know how many steps of faith Peter took, but Matthew says that at one point he looked at the wind and began to sink.

The passage tells us, *“And beginning to sink, [Peter] cries out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and took hold of him.”* Take a moment to consider this thought:

How many seconds lie between a person’s *beginning to sink*, and their *actual sinking*? A single second or less, I suppose. How swift, then, was the movement of Jesus’ love?! So, as He was then, so He is now!

Jesus saved Peter. He called Peter to experience the height of the joy of faith and obedience. He also let Peter experience the fierce wind, the severe rain, the rocking waves. Jesus Himself had not changed between Peter’s joy and fear, Peter’s focus had, which then stole his faith. When we choose to focus on the wind instead of Jesus, we begin to sink. As our ankles begin to get wet, we are reminded that we have only one sure lifeboat. Jesus. As quickly as we cry out to our God again, His hand is there.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Circumstances definitely rock our boats in this life, but that’s not what causes us to sink. Looking at the circumstances rather than God and His precious promises is what causes our heads to go under the waves. Sometimes this submarine-effect happens right after we have stepped out in great faith. We might be experiencing incredible victory when we ever so slightly change our focus and there we go, bubbles and all. In the story of Peter’s sinking, it wasn’t the outside influence of the wind which caused him to begin to sink. It was his response to the wind: Fear.

Fears sink our faith, ultimately sinking us. Truth be told, in this world there is always something to fear; but, deeper truth be told, there is always the One who gave His all so that He could reach out His hand *“immediately”* to us even as we are just *“beginning”* to sink. Like Peter, we only have to focus again and call out, *“Lord, save me.”* As we start the new year let’s leave behind past fears and focus on faith and love as we move forward.

“From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: “In my distress I called to the Lord and he answered me.” (Jonah 2:1-2)

Application: The Holy Spirit can use this devotional in our lives today a number of different ways. Take some time today or this week to re-read, meditate and pray over the scriptures, ask God what He wants you to do with this truth.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear LORD, thank you for Your great love and blessing over our lives. Thank you that Your favor has no end. Forgive us for sometimes forgetting that You are intimately acquainted with all of our ways. That You know our concerns and fears, and You cover us as with a shield. We seek to walk in Your blessings and goodness today. That Your face would shine on us. We pray that You would make our way purposeful and our footsteps firm out of Your goodness and love. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King