

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 – March 7, 2021

“He gives power to the tired and worn out, and strength to the weak. Even the youths shall be exhausted, and the young men will all give up. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” **Isaiah 40:29-31 Living Bible (TLB)**

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” The Lord wants to strengthen your thinking. In Isaiah, we find these beautiful and poetic lines that are known and loved in every generation. Yet rarely, if ever, do we think of them as applying to the life of our minds. We know our bodies need strength, and even understand the necessity of overcoming difficulty in life, however we all too easily miss the ways in which our minds must be fortified and strengthened by the life of the Spirit.

The renewal of our thinking is not the absence of thought, as is commonly believed when we speak of meditation or similar disciplines. No, mindfulness needs a direction. We must have clarity on where we are headed, and then take on practices that bring our minds and thoughts into greater alignment with that goal. As Joshua 1:8 says, *“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night.”*

The commands of God are the object of our meditation. We turn our hearts and minds towards the Lord so we can learn to think His thoughts as our own. As we do, we are confronted with the inescapable reality that God wants to renew within us our love for Him, and our love for our neighbor. Paul emphatically drives this point home, saying, “*For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*” (Galatians 5:14)

If our mindfulness and meditation, even meditation on the Word of God, does not result in a greater love for our neighbor, we have failed to hear the Lord’s word spoken to us. We may have heard a part or portion of His truth, but if we hear His love and mercy and grace simply in reference to ourselves and personal peace and fulfillment, instead of setting our minds on the Lord and His Kingdom, we in a sense are asking the Lord to set *His* thoughts on the kingdoms of self that we might be building.

Isaiah promises that those who wait on the Lord - those who pay attention to His ways and set their thoughts on His Kingdom - they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. This strength that the Lord gives is not for ourselves only, but is given so we can be His hands and feet in love to our neighbor. We run in self-giving love and service, and we do not grow weary in doing good. We walk with those who need us to slow down and come alongside them, and we will not faint, for the Lord gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

Application: Meditate on Scripture today and allow this practice to turn you outwards in love towards others. Ask the Lord to strengthen your mind by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may learn to love and serve even greater, as He has loved and served you.

Prayer of reflection and response you might pray this week: “Heavenly Father, give me a heart like the Heart of Jesus. A heart more ready to serve than be served. A heart moved by compassion towards the weak and oppressed. A heart set upon the coming of Your Kingdom. I pray that as You have been gracious in Your giving and blessing me so much, that it does not make me less sensitive to the needs of others less fortunate. But, rather move me to lay their burdens on my own heart. I await Your Voice. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King