

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 – June 13, 2021

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2

Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIV)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” A generous spirit is a decision of the will, not a fleeting emotion of the heart. We give generously in times of plenty, and in times of great need. Each of us spends our days in countless different vocations and pursuits-but whether you are a stay-at-home parent, a member of the armed forces serving far from home, or anywhere and anyone in-between, the call upon your life is to unconditional generosity.

As Paul reminds us, we give what we have **decided** to give. Not reluctantly or under compulsion, but cheerfully. Again, a cheerful disposition is not reserved for those with a naturally bubbly personality! Cheerfulness is a choice every single one of us can make. And so, wherever life may have you, whatever the joys or challenges of your situation and season, you are called to cheerfully give your life away as a blessing to others.

Cheerful generosity is a calling that requires a response. You and I are entirely free to reject the call and ignore the invitation of the Lord. We are able to carry on with our own personal concerns and cares, ignoring the needs of those around us. And because God is longsuffering and abounding in love for His children, He will continue to extend His Goodness to us, even if we are closed off from Him and others. However, until we learn to use our freedom to say yes to Christ, we will never truly know the joy of being ‘child of God’/disciple.

The details of your life may give you plenty of reasons to not be cheerful or generous. You may be drowning in the deep end of parenting. You may live alone or might still be isolating yourself due to the virus, leaving you vulnerable to loneliness, and depression. Perhaps relational conflict or the loss of a loved one has left you upside down, without any natural impulse towards generous and cheerful living.

Though we may struggle to see it, these are the moments that lead us into a deep and abiding faith. We must daily remember that God *is able* to bless us abundantly. The blessing of His Life can be encountered *in all things and at all times*, even this very moment you find yourself in.

So, receive the gift of His grace, and set your heart, mind, and will upon a generous and cheerful life, abounding in every good work.

Application: How can you choose today to be generous and cheerful, even if your circumstances give you plenty of excuses to do otherwise?

Prayer of reflection and response you might pray this week: “Heavenly Father, thank You for the call and invitation to be cheerful and generous givers. Help us by Your Grace to resolve and commit our steps to following You in this way in all that we say, think and do. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King