



Come in the Name of the Lord

1 Samuel 17:32-49

All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands.

June 21, 2015

Thoughts for the Week

Be, Do, Have

You normally hear this phrase in Network Marketing or prosperity meetings, but it is true in practically every aspect of life. Put simply, if you want to achieve something, you first must become the kind of person who can achieve it and do the kind of things that person will do. Then you will enjoy the fruits of those achievements. These achievements do not have to be life changing; they can be just small steps in a career or relationship.

"You can have anything you want - if you want it badly enough. You can be anything you want to be, do anything you set out to accomplish if you hold to that desire with singleness of purpose."
Abraham Lincoln

Be All that You Can Be

It is amazing how you affect other people without speaking a word. The people who carry a stormy winter's night in their heart, cloaking anyone who gets close enough and those who beam like rays of sunshine on a frosty morning, projecting love, trust and friendship.

Everybody has problems. The only place you find people without them, is a cemetery. Be different, let go of your troubles and start to shine. Be all that you can be.

"What you are shouting so loudly in my ears I cannot hear what you say." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!" Anne Frank

Giving & Receiving

There is only one way to truly receive, to truly enrich yourself and enjoy prosperity and that is to first give. It is just one of those universal laws, like the law of gravity and there is really no way around it.

If you went to college, you did not first seek proof of a job, but gave of your time and money to enrich yourself so that you would be ready when a job came your way. In the same way, you did not wait to be loved before loving; you gave love and in return were loved. You gave trust and in return were trusted.

"Giving is better than receiving because giving starts the receiving process." Jim Rohn

"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."
Proverbs 11:24-25

To See Opportunity, You Need a Clear Mind

I love the old tale about the two shoe salesmen going to a remote part of Africa. One, completely discouraged by what he saw, called his company and said: "It's a complete waste of time, bring me home, they don't like shoes here". The other, bursting with enthusiasm said "Get a shipment ready, you are not going to believe this, there is no competition here. Nobody has any shoes."

To really see opportunities we have to step away from our paradigm, the belief system we have created through our past experience. We have to clear our minds of any prejudice. Only then can we really see what is laid out before us.

"The golden opportunity you are seeking is in yourself. It is not in your environment; it is not in luck or chance, or the help of others; it is in yourself alone." Orison Swett Marden

The New Year

Here we are, almost halfway through our New Year, it is time to reflect on the learning experiences (or mistakes) we were blessed with in the past, to take ownership of these mistakes and responsibility for them, learn from them and look forward to a year of opportunities, armed with new knowledge and experience we've never had before now.

It's time to pause, rest a while, then grit our teeth and walk out like a champion, ready to win spectacularly.

And here is some good advice from one of the greatest entrepreneurs who ever lived:

"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better person." Benjamin Franklin

Prayer Thought for the Week

Let us be still in the courts of glory that God's grace may bathe our souls in peace. We give praise and honor to God who has visited our souls with such grace.

Because of such grace and glory, we become keenly aware of the stain sin has left on our souls. We seek further cleansing.

We hold the people of Niger up to you, God. Our hearts fill with sorrow as we remember how so many parts of our world are held in the grip of intolerance and terror and civil war. May cool heads with listening hearts prevail.

We speak our gratitude for the enormous blessings that our families and other loved ones are experiencing.

Beloved Creator, you have watched generations come and go throughout the stretches of time. We are reaping the harvest they planted. And we plant for those who follow us. Grace our harvesting and our planting. We want to do our part in creating a universe at peace with itself. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Stewardship Thought

Stewardship is about being grateful responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God.

The tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the Biblical practice of "tithing," which means to give back a tenth of our earnings to God (Numbers 18:26).

The Community of Christ sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents, and volunteering for ministry and mission.

It's about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity.