

Beloved friends, I extend to you warm greetings in JESUS name & pray that you rare REJOICING in the LORD (Phil. 4:4). Embrace our LORDís AWESOME LOVE daily & understand that HE is ALWAYS with you, 24-7 (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5). This is a great encouragement to us ALL who have HIM in our hearts as LORD & SAVIOR. Our FAITH must grow & increase (Luke 17:5) & we must NOT take PRAYER & SPIRITUAL WARFARE lightly. It is a war that we are in (II Cor. 10:3), & when calamities (Ps. 57:1) blindside us, causing uncertainty about what we can do, or how we are to respond, RUN TO JESUS. When we are overwhelmed, start PRAISING HIM & PRAY in EXPECTATION (Ps. 62:5).

I know this; our LORD is not overwhelmed no matter what trouble, trial or tribulation hits us. HE is NOT overwhelmed by the multitudes of needs (Phil 4:19) in our country. The LORD has ALWAYS been FAITHFUL & will ALWAYS remain FAITHFUL (Heb. 10:23).

February started out with a wonderful time of harvesting souls & the latter part of the month was strong, but there was almost 2 weeks of rioting & deadly clashes of racial brawls in our nations largest jail system (24,000), the Los Angeles County. At Wayside, the biggest riot in the history of California took place (some 2000 inmates) , & there were battles on 3 different buses that were taking inmates to court. Fists & razor blades! There were serious injuries & deaths. The devil sure knows how to trigger racial riots of hate. It spilled over in different areas surrounding L.A. LOCKDOWN! I never got in to minister or preach. Whatever happened to LOVE? There is too much hate, bitterness & vengeance. Yet, GOD IS LOVE. (1 John 4:8)

All the services at the Fred Jordan Mission, L.A. Mission, Long Beach Rescue Mission, & Union Rescue Mission were well attended with very good harvests of souls. The HOLY SPIRIT is sure a good fisherman (John 6:44). Over 250 came forth & I gave everyone an Arsenal Prayer & gave Bibles to those who asked for one. Also had a good evening of service at Jacobís Well in Long Beach. There were 3 men who bailed out of the Fred Jordan Mission Spiritual Growth Program where I minister to the men for an hour on spiritual warfare , prayer & praise before I do the chapel service. They went back out into the street & were smoking crack. One was truly called to ministry & I grieved when they left. I pray the LORD brings them back (John 10:28-30). It always makes my heart sink when these things happen. This is when I need encouragement. As a servant of GOD, I am called to respond with

FAITH & VIGOR, giving my best to encourage, edify & uplift, ALWAYS directing them to the LORD & HIS WORD. I must NOT despair nor grow weary in fulfilling my calling. GOD will use for good what the devil meant for evil. But it is a CHOICE & DECISION they make that has a profound effect on their lives.

What is the most important DECISION we will ever make? Not many people ask themselves this one simple question. Good decisions thru prayer & GOD'S guidance (Ps. 32:8) lead to prosperity & hope, while bad decisions leave us feeling discouraged & defeated. The single most IMPORTANT DECISION a person can make is to accept JESUS CHRIST as their personal savior. However, the world's viewpoint is quite different. It tells us that the most powerful decisions we make are those dealing with material gain & personal power. Portrayed is the idea that if we live a certain way & make enough money, we will achieve success, happiness, & prosperity. NOT TRUE! (Joshua 1:8) Striving to gain worldly success is costly, emotionally consuming, & physically draining. There is only one true way to succeed in life & that is thru a personal INTIMATE relationship with JESUS CHRIST.

Many Christians struggle over the thought of success & wonder if they can live a godly life & still be successful? The answer is YES! GOD has designed us for success (Matt. 6:33). Success from HIS perspective is a continuing achievement of becoming the person GOD wants us to be & accomplishing the goals GOD has helped us to set. When you LIVE your life focused on HIS principles, KEYED into HIS thoughts & COMMITTED to obeying HIM (I Sam. 15:22), you will achieve true success. Some think money is the source of security & happiness which leads to a wrong focus. God does NOT want us to focus on money as a benchmark of success. Some of the world's most successful people have very little money. Fame, social position & money are NOT indicators of true success. When we view money as a medium of exchange that GOD has provided as a tool HE uses to equip us & we adopt this attitude, our view of money becomes much more balanced. We are NOT focused on gaining more, doing more, or buying more. Instead, we learn that GOD IS OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCE & we are caretakers. GOD truly does have an opinion on success. One of the greatest TRUTHS in this area is this: GOD LOVES YOU (Jer. 31:3) & HE has a wonderful plan for your life (Jer. 29:11-13). How you view success is critical to all you do & what you achieve. CHOICE & DECISIONS!

If anyone out there has a notebook or laptop they don't use or want anymore, I can use one. P.T.L.

Until next month, may GOD richly bless you. Please continue to pray for me. To you who sent love offerings & prayers, a 100-fold blessing.

In His Majesty's Service,

Mel Novak