

DEVELOPING AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

November 16, 2007

Introduction – Do you consider yourself a thankful person? Do you think others look at you and listen to you and consider you a thankful person? Is it really a big deal?

*Why it is significant...

- It is ALWAYS GOD’S WILL
- It AFFECTS YOUR WHOLE BEING (Spirit, Emotionally, Mentally, Physically)
- It AFFECTS YOUR TESTIMONY AND WITNESS
- It is an INDICATOR OF WHERE YOUR HEART IS AT

*Two observations...

- Gratefulness doesn’t come naturally
- Being or becoming grateful requires a choice and practice

I Thess 5:18 – “In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”



1. _____

Discussion:

1. What measuring stick do we often use resulting in inconsistent gratefulness?
2. What measuring stick should we use and why?

2. _____

*Phil 4:11-12 – “...I have learned to **be content** whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of **being content** in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”*

Discussion:

1. How does Phil 4:11-12 compare to Prov 30:8-9? Why is it a step up?
2. Why is it hard, especially in America, to be content?
3. What are some keys to learning contentment?

3. _____

Phil 4:8 – “Finally, brothers, ... if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.”

Discussion:

1. How did the black dot on the white marker board illustrate this point?
2. What must we learn to “focus” on if we’re to be grateful in every circumstance?

4. _____

Rom 8:28 – “*And we know that God causes **all things to work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*”

Discussion:

1. How did the biscuit illustrate this point?
2. Can you give an example where something by itself didn't look to good, but later made sense and was a good thing actually?

5. _____

Discussion:

1. Why is it so hard for so many of us to stop and smell the flowers?
2. Rich gave an illustration of flowers at funeral homes. How did it illustrate this point?

6. _____

Luke 17:17-18 – “*Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and **give praise to God** except this foreigner?’*

Discussion:

1. Have you noticed a general lack of thanks in the public arena, especially venues of service? Can you give any examples?
2. Did a lack of gratefulness bother Jesus? What Biblical story illustrates this?

Conclusion: If you're generally not a grateful person, rather one who tends to complain; why not surrender your heart to God today. Ask Him to help you apply today's Word so that you can do His will, live healthy, and reflect the Christ within.