

## FULL OF THANKS

December 1, 2013

Every relationship has 2 goals: Connection or Disconnection

- Expressing our thankfulness for one another in our words, actions and thoughts creates a connection between us

Psalm 100:1-4 (AMP)

- Thanksgiving gives us rapid access to God's presence and brings His presence into our world
- When we put ourselves in thankfulness, we posture ourselves for His presence
- It gives God access to move in our lives

Being thankful for each other

- In light of our relationships...When we are thankful for each other in our families, it brings His presence into our homes
- Philippians 1:3 – From prison, the Apostle Paul wrote the believers in Philippi, *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you"* and he exhorted them to *"join in following my example"* (3:17).
- A life of thanksgiving is less susceptible to daily stress, headaches, lower blood pressure, stronger disease immunity, fewer symptoms of depression
- It's proven that when we are continually thankful, it affects the information that we filter—we tend to focus on the good things
- When we are continually thankful for each other, we will tend to focus on the positive things

### ***Characteristics of a Thankful Heart***

Danny Silk – *"We deliberately set the standard for how we expect to be treated by the way we treat others."*

A sign that you are in relationship with Jesus is that you love people.

- Bob Jones' story "Keep Your Love On" p.156 – "Did you love?"

A THANKFUL HEART IS MOTIVATED BY COMPASSION

*Eusplagchnos* (yoo'-splangkh-nos) – to be tenderhearted or affectionate

- Eu – great pleasure; a person who feels very positive about someone or something

- *Splagchnos* – intestines or bowels; tender emotions; a person who is deeply moved
- *Eusplagchnos* (yoo'-splangkh-nos) – an inward feeling of delight and a deep desire that moves someone to do something for someone else
- Used in 1 Peter 3 to describe a healthy relationship in a marriage
- Used to express moments when Jesus was “moved with compassion”
- When Jesus felt compassion for someone, it moved Him so deeply that it surged out of Him to meet the needs of people—healing, feeding, teaching, delivering, raising dead
- When we are void of compassion, our focus will be on the extent of people’s needs, flaws and quirks instead of seeing the treasure of each individual life
- When we are filled with compassion it will continually flow out of us—the only way to shut it off is by deliberately hardening your heart and putting up a barrier toward someone
- Compassion produces action!
- When we are motivated by compassion, thankfulness is going to flow out of us and we are going to be moved to receive and make room for each other

#### A THANKFUL HEART RECIEVES & MAKES ROOM FOR PEOPLE

- A thankful heart makes room for people, who they are and what they bring into our lives
- “It’s time to celebrate our differences.”
- Each part of our body makes room for the other parts and flows in harmony and dependency on each doing their part so the whole body can function

Romans 15:5-7 – *“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (NIV)*

- Receive (accept) – grant one access to one’s heart

#### Makes Room for Other’s Unique Perspectives & Expressions

- It is much easier to take one another for granted and focus on other’s shortcomings and flaws
- When I’m thankful for you, I’m going to give you access into my world because I’m going to see the value in you and your influence in my life
- An unthankful heart shuts people out because we don’t value the way they see, the way they think or the way they do things that are different than us
- Honor is the practice of calling out the best in one another

#### Makes Room for Other’s Advancements

- When we have a thankful heart for each other, we are willing to celebrate their victories, even if they surpass us

- Saul was thankful for David until David's victories surpassed Saul's victories—then his heart turned to jealousy, envy and pride
- An unthankful heart shuts people out or tears them down when they advance

#### Makes Room for Other's Revelation of Jesus

- You have a revelation of Jesus that is different from mine
- Revelation – our encounters, our journey, what we've heard from Him, our testimonies
- 1 Corinthians 2:16 – “...*WE have the mind of Christ*”—be careful that your revelation doesn't become the only revelation and the right revelation.
- Noah's revelation of God—He hates sin and how it destroys people; He offers new beginnings and fresh starts; He keeps promises and reminds us of His faithfulness
- What if we didn't hear the revelations of Moses/Deliverer, Ruth/Kinsman Redeemer, David/Shepherd, Mighty Warrior, the One who reigns, Prostitute/One who forgives and restores

#### Making room for each other takes work

*“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.”* (Mother Teresa)