

Sunday, November 27, 2011

THANKSGIVING OUGHT TO BE A LIFESTYLE!

Colossians 2:7—"Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all He has done."

When grace flows in...gratitude fills up...and generosity flows out!

#1—When GRACE flows in...

Ephesians 1:6,7—"It brings praise to God because of His wonderful grace. God gave that grace to us freely in Christ the One He loves and in Christ we're set free by the blood of His death and so we have forgiveness of sins. How rich is God's grace."

Romans 8:31—"What shall we say in response to this. If God is for us who can be against us?"

Isaiah 30:18—"Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you. He rises to show you compassion."

"There's not even one that is righteous—not one!"

"Within every one of us is a heart that's desperately wicked and deceitful."

"We've all gone astray."

Until we understand the darkness of our own soul, we will never fully appreciate grace!

God **CHOOSES** to love me—that's GRACE!!

#2—GRATITUDE fills up!

Gratitude is so much more than just being polite—just saying "Thank you!"

Gratitude creates joy and appreciation and makes us less petty and critical!

"Let your life overflow with thankfulness!"

PERSPECTIVE...

True gratitude has nothing to do with what we have or don't have!

Habakkuk: "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vine, though the olive crop fails and fields produce no food. Though there are no sheep in the pen or cattle in the stalls, I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in God my Savior!"

The only thing that changed was Habakkuk's PERSPECTIVE!

I Thessalonians 5:18—"No matter what happens, always be thankful for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

PROTECTION...

Ephesians 5—"there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving."

When you place gratitude in your heart—it changes what comes out of your mouth!

You need to guard your heart with gratitude—you need to protect it!

PRACTICE...

We need to learn to 'stay in the moment.'

Practice saying 'Thanks' for the little things—stay in the moment long enough to show your gratitude.

Psalms 118:24—"This is the day the Lord has made. We'll rejoice and be glad in it."

#3—GENEROSITY flows out!

When our lives have been invaded by grace, and they're filled with gratitude—it begins to show...

In our faces, in our words, in our actions.

There is a direct link between my ability to love and the depth of my gratitude.

There is a direct link between the depth of my gratitude and my understanding of grace.

When our hearts get full of gratitude, it can't stay put—it works its way out in generosity!