

### 3-5-2025... Grace to RECEIVE

Yesterday God orchestrated to have 2 people bless ME in prayer. There was something beautiful that happened. Something that could only come from King Jesus.

We all strive to be alert to serve and bless and pray for others as opportunities arise. But sometimes our souls need to **RECEIVE** prayer and ministry! While we all love to be the blesser-s, we also need to grow in the grace of being the **BLESS-EES**.

God is always multi – tasking. After being prayed for in 2 different situations, I walked away knowing God had ministered to some of my deepest needs.

But equally importantly, God was simultaneously blessing the people who prayed for me in deep ways. One to the point of tears and soul stirring awareness of God's spirit moving powerfully through them. *Who needed it more, me or them?* Both / and!

#### Movement 1 Read ...

Paul wrote about the sacredness and power of **RECEIVING** from others in Phillipian's 4 as the Phillipian's blessed him with physical provision.

<sup>10</sup>I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup>I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

<sup>14</sup>Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup>Moreover, as you Philipians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup>for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.

<sup>17</sup>Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup>I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply

supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent.

**They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.** <sup>19</sup>And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

#### Movement 2 Reflect ...

Being of good Norwegian heritage, it's always been hard to **RECEIVE** help, or prayer or provision easily and graciously. But over the years I have had a paradigm shift to see **RECEIVING** as God sees it.

*Years ago a gr8 friend, wanted to help me with something I desperately needed help with. I tried to resist and they replied, "DON'T YOU DARE ROB ME OF THIS BLESSING!"*

- ⇒ Is that true? When God prompts someone to serve us (in prayer, tangible help, or provision) and we respond in pride and resistance are we resisting God?
- ⇒ Is it easy or hard for you to ask for prayer, or receive help (tangible or provision)? Why? Do you need to shift paradigms (repent or think again)?
- ⇒ What does God accomplish by having us sometimes be the **RECIEVER**, and not the giver of ministry, prayer, or provision?
- ⇒ Look at verse 19 above. Is that a universal promise for all people or a conditional promise to those who are joining in Kingdom purposes?

#### Movement 3... Pray

- ⇒ Pray that God grows you in the grace of **RECEIVING**, when he prompts others to pray or minister to you.
- ⇒ Pray for our micro churches... and all of us as we seek to live like missionaries
- ⇒ Pray for wisdom as we explore ways to partner on mission with Messenger Church
- ⇒ Pray for some of the ministries we serve with... the Food Pantry, the recovery ministry, the special needs home, and Empty Cup Coffee House.

⇒ Pray for new and deepening relationships in our neighborhoods.