



Thanksgiving

I Can Do All Things // November 6, 2011 // David McQueen

MESSAGE RECAP

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Phil. 4:13) is a promise for contentment. Finding contentment, having a thankful heart and acknowledging the blessings of God, stands in direct opposition to the values of our culture that encourage and market to discontentment. Discontentment keeps our focus on what we do not have instead of being thankful for what we do have. Only by the Holy Spirit can we truly praise, with endless gratitude, the goodness of God and rejoice in His provision (Eph. 5:18-20; 1 Thess. 5:18).

GETTING STARTED

1. What have you seen, read about, or experienced recently that suggests that we live in an increasingly discontent society? What do people generally want that they do not have?

GOING DEEPER

1. How does discontentment rob us of gratitude? What is the connection, if any, between discontentment and entitlement?
2. What does it truly mean to be content?
3. How do we, as believers, walk in thankfulness and contentment while asking the Lord for greater measures of transformation and for more of His Kingdom to come (Matt. 6:10)?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. Do you wrestle with contentment and being thankful? What do you find yourself longing for that you do not have?
2. What are you most thankful for right now?

MINISTRY TIME

Paul (in 2 Tim. 6:6) writes that godliness with content is great gain. **Take time to pray over those that express a measure of discontentment and those that share a longing or desire that is unfulfilled at this point.** Ask the Lord fill these group members with His Spirit, that they might have power to rejoice and be thankful for the goodness and provision of God. Ask Him for wisdom in how to find the proper balance between contentment and seeking after more of God's presence and Kingdom. As you conclude, take time to verbally express prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord as a group.

TAKING ACTION

Pastor David, during his message on Sunday morning, challenged Beltway Park to *21 Days of Thankfulness*. For the next three weeks, to whom can you express gratitude? What do you have that you can express thankfulness to God for on a daily basis? **This week, take time to purposefully approach your spouse, a neighbor, a family member, a coworker, or a friend and verbalize sincere appreciation and gratitude to them.** Be as specific as possible in what you are thankful for in them.

JUST FOR LEADERS

VISION CASTING:

Remind your group this week about why Life Groups exist at Beltway Park: to encounter an amazingly loving God and to be transformed by Him. By repeatedly focusing on transformation in the presence of God, you help set the level of expectation within the members of your group.

CRITICAL DATES & INFORMATION:

Wednesday, November 9 - DNA Infusion at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, November 16 - DNA Infusion at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, November 30 - DNA Infusion at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall



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