

## 2010 Teen Summer Camp—The Four Freedom of Grace—The Freedom to be Candid

### Introduction

- What does it mean to be candid? 1) Fair; open; frank; ingenuous; free from undue bias; disposed to think and judge according to truth and justice, or without partiality or prejudice; applied to persons. 2) Fair; just; impartial; applied to things; as a candid view, or construction.
- How many of you feel the freedom to open and frank with God about your thoughts, feelings, desires, faults, and failures? If so why not? Do you really think you can hid anything from God?
- How many of you feel like you need to put your grace suit on when you are around other grace believers?
- Ephesians 3:11-12—how many of you believe that you can come boldly before the throne of grace. Notice that you can because of the faith of Christ.
- Candor is several steps above honesty and is a way of communicating freely without prejudice or malice. Candor takes the truth and frames it in a way that helps rather than harms. The most important nuance of candor is that it is supposed to be free of deception.
- *The third characteristic of the Grace Life is that it gives us the freedom to be candid.*
- Ephesians 4:15—grace makes all the difference because it keeps honesty from getting ugly. It ratchets up the free exchange of heartfelt things to a much higher level of forthrightness—a careful forthrightness that guards the other person’s dignity.

### Candid Prayer

- How many of you are afraid to pray or confused when you pray because you are afraid to pray something wrong? Why do you fell this way?
- I Thessalonians 5:17—contains a straightforward yet incredibly profound instruction regarding prayer. Pray without stopping.
- In time past this was not the case. In the Old Testament, those who honored and obeyed God found their way to certain places to pray—places where the presence of God was said to dwell, places like the Temple.
  - Acts 3:1—there were specific hours and places where prayers were to be offered.
- Two spiritual realities are responsible for this change: 1) the fact that the justified believer has peace with God, 2) the fact that the believer is sealed and indwelt by God the Holy Spirit.
  - Isaiah 59:1-2—Romans 5:1
  - II Samuel 7:15, Psalm 51:11—Ephesians 4:30

- Because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit the place of prayer is now within the believer—within you—in every step as you carry out your ambassadorship in Christ’s stead. These spiritual realities are what allow us to pray without ceasing. As breathing is crucial to your life in the natural, so prayer is crucial to your spiritual life.
- Philippians 4:6—Paul’s formula is simple. Have a concern? Pray right then and there.
- One of the problems with how Grace Lifer teacher have taught prayer is that we have made people scared to death to pray the wrong thing. Some of us need to take some of the powder out of doctrinal cannon and stop pouncing on people every time they say or pray something that is not quite right.
- The issue in verse 6 is that God says it’s okay to pray about anything that is bothering us. Were not supposed to be worried about improperly doing the very thing God gave us to combat our worries, cares, and anxieties.
- The real issue is not what you pray for but what you expect God to do for you when you pray.

### **What Happens When I Pray?**

- Romans 8:26-27—explain what happens when we pray
  - God the Holy Spirit makes intercession for you with groanings that cannot uttered.
  - The word of God (written word) searches your heart and makes intercession for you.
  - Jesus Christ the living word also makes intercession for us (Romans 8:34).
- Philippians 4:7—we see the results of this intercessory process. We are not promised physical deliverance or miraculous intervention. Rather we are promised that our hearts and minds will be kept by the peace of God.
- There is something about this process that we cannot enter into in our understanding. Just as there are groanings which cannot be utter or put into words.
- Keep--to guard, protect by a military guard, either to prevent hostile invasion, or to keep the inhabitants of a besieged city from flight.
  - II Corinthians 11:32
- It is important to note the connection between the intercessory process and its results.
  - Romans 8:27—the searching of the heart reveals the mind of the Spirit
  - Philippians 4:7—the promise is that our hearts and minds will kept through Christ Jesus.
- Prayer activates within in the believer a point of connection between the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that garrisons the believers heart and mind in the peace of God.

- Philippians 4:8—this process only works when we keep our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ. If you allow your mind to dwell on the things that caused you to be anxious in the first place your emotions will follow and you will not have the peace of God.

### **God's Working Today**

- Ephesians 3:14-21—According to God the Father's riches in glory Paul prays that the Ephesians would be:
  - Strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man
  - Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith
  - Be rooted and grounded in love might be able to comprehend the breadth, length, depth, and height and know the love of Christ which passeth all knowledge
  - Filled with all the fullness of God
- Ephesians 3:14, 16—Notice that in verse 14 Paul prays to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ that in verse 16 the Spirit would strengthen us with might in our inner man.
- It is imperative that you understand that this mighty strengthening is going to occur in your inner man not your outward man.
- Today in the Dispensation of Grace God is doing something different than he was in time past he has concluded Israel his physical earthly people in unbelief and is forming the Church the body of Christ. A new spiritual heavenly agency. Therefore God deals with his body differently from how he dealt with Israel in the past.
  - II Corinthians 5:16—we don't have a physical fleshly relationship with Christ the way Israel did in time past. Rather we have a spiritual relationship with our heavenly father.
  - Ephesians 1:3—our blessings are all given to us by Christ but they are spiritual in nature not physical. That is why Paul prays that our inward man would be strengthened by the Spirit.
- As a result, some have accused us teaching that God is not working in your life.
  - Philippians 2:13--God is at work today in you that believe. It is an inner man work so that the life of Jesus Christ can be shown forth in your outer man.
  - II Corinthians 4:10-11—when we walk by faith in who God has made in Jesus Christ it becomes his life that is being lived out through us. It is the life of Christ being made manifest in our mortal flesh.
  - I Thessalonians 2:13—it is faith in the words on page that activates the power of God in your inner man.
- Grace gives us the freedom to be candid with our heavenly father and each other.