Pastor Jay’s Jottings

November 2024

If you had absolute assurance and trust that you would always have enough, how would your practice of generosity change? Isn’t that a great question? It asks us to review a few things in our life. 1. How much is enough? 2. Who is our source? 3. How do we respond to others, conditionally? Or unconditionally? This month ends with the day we call “Thanksgiving.” It’s a wonderful day of food, football (for most) and for those fortunate enough, family. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated as a feast of thanks for the abundance that they had in their lives. And this year, I would invite us to think about Thanksgiving as a day of Abundance. Can we change our mindset from consuming sports, gorging on too much food, and laying around, to one of authentic thankfulness because of the abundance that we have in our lives? Those who discover a life with God, who draw into intimate communion with Him through word and prayer, will come to see the world very differently. Rather than a place of scarcity and fear, a life with God opens our eyes to recognize a world of abundance that leads to gratitude. This month, reflect in your life how you see your life. How do you see the world? Do you focus on those things you wish you had, or that you think will make your life better? Or, can you focus on a posture of gratitude and abundance, seeing all that you do have as a gift from God? In Matthew 6, Jesus says the following… 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” As you reflect, focus on your heart, and your relation- ship with Jesus. Where can it grow in trust and intimacy? Are you seeking to do the work of God’s Kingdom first, or your own kingdom?

Are you looking for those things that bring Glory to God? Or Glory to you? These are not fun questions to ask and reflect on, but if we are to grow in our love and discipleship, they are heart questions that must be wrestled with if we are to strive for God’s kingdom first, especially as we look to be ambassadors of Jesus on earth. Thank you for being a part of this worship community. Thank you for what you do in service toward our neighbors and our God. And I look forward to seeing where God is leading FELC in the future as we strive to see Christ proclaimed above all. Because, as we more fully understand the depths that Jesus went to save us, the more overwhelming gratitude we will have for the one who promises us a new life with Him. And that abundant life can only be found through the One who gave Himself for us.

God Loves You and So Do I,

Pastor Jay