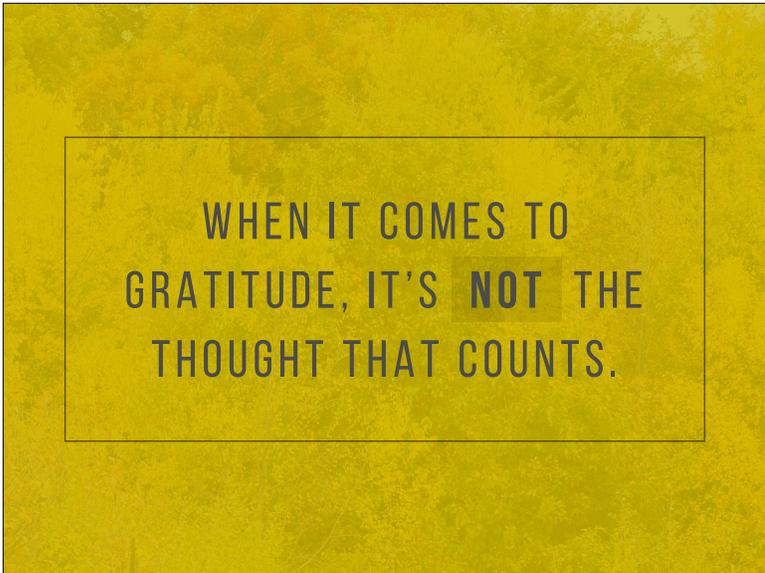


THE
GRATITUDE
INITIATIVE

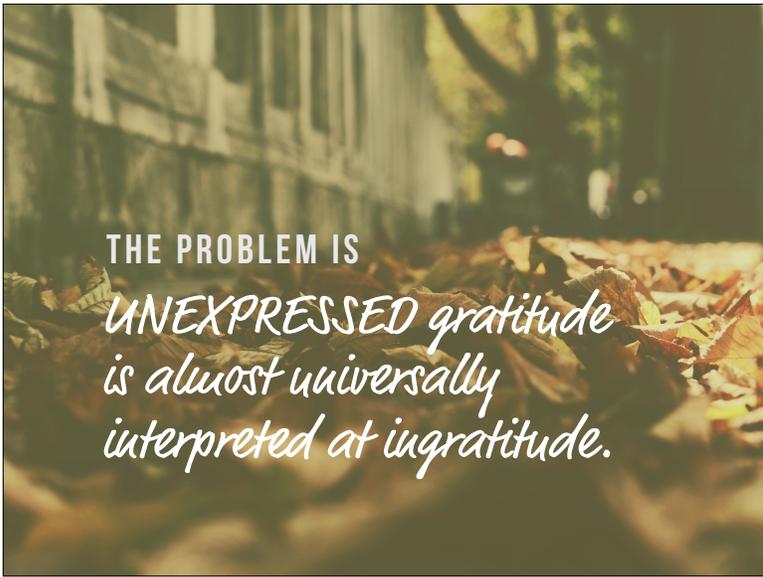
WEEK 1 "JUST DO IT. THANKS!"

A DECEPTIVE LIE

"It's the thought that counts."



WHEN IT COMES TO
GRATITUDE, IT'S **NOT** THE
THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.



THE PROBLEM IS

*UNEXPRESSED gratitude
is almost universally
interpreted as ingratitude.*



Authentic Gratitude

IS NEVER SILENTLY
EXPRESSED



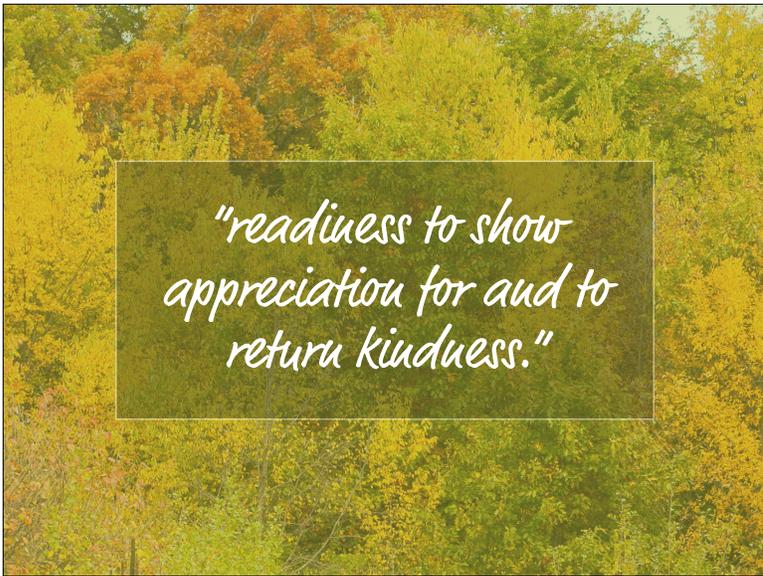
AUTHENTIC GRATITUDE HAS
KEY COMPONENTS **2**

- 1) It's an affirmation of goodness
- 2) It's a recognition that the source of this goodness is outside ourselves



GRATITUDE:

"the quality of being thankful"



"readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness."



INITIATIVE:

"seeing what needs to be done...and doing it."

THE ABILITY TO NOTICE,
THEN TO EXPRESS
GRATITUDE IS ONE OF
THE FUNDAMENTAL
SIGNS OF GOD'S
PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE.

THE REALITY IS
LIKE IT OR NOT

↓
EXPRESSION
ALWAYS
OVERRULES
INTENTION

LUKE 7:36-50

³⁶When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

LUKE 7:36-50

³⁷A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.

LUKE 7:36-50

³⁸As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

Gratitude always creates opportunity or generates generosity.

LUKE 7:36-50

³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

*Gratitude always creates opportunity
or generates generosity.*

LUKE 7:36-50

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. ⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

LUKE 7:36-50

⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

LUKE 7:36-50

⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."
"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

LUKE 7:36-50

⁴⁴Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.



**UNEXPRESSED
GRATITUDE IS A FORM
OF REJECTION.**



"At the root of all ingratitude is the love of one's own greatness."

LUKE 7:36-50

⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

Conversely, genuine gratitude admits that we are beneficiaries of an unearned gift.

We are cripples leaning on the cross-shaped crutch of Jesus Christ.

We are paralytics living minute by minute in the iron lung of God's mercy.

We are children asleep in heaven's stroller.”

JOHN PIPER

LUKE 7:36-50

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” ⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

"Natural man hates to think of himself in these images: unworthy beneficiary, cripple, paralytic, child. These images rob human beings of all their glory by giving it all to God. Therefore, while a man loves his own glory, and prizes his self-sufficiency, and hates to think of himself as sin-sick and helpless, he will never feel any genuine gratitude to the true God and so will never magnify God, but only himself."

LUKE 7:36-50

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

COLOSSIANS 3:15-17

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

