**MPD and Gospel Transformation**

In MPD, it is paramount that we think right and biblically about ourselves, our mission, MPD, the Lord and about others. What we think about these things will be determinant in how we go after support. As it say in Proverbs 27:3, "For as he (man) thinketh in his heart, so is he." (KJV)

Paul exhorts the church in Rome to be transformed by the renewing of their mind (Romans 12:2). The following is an exercise to help you experience transformational thinking in MPD.

**Transformation Through God's Word**

Take time read and think about the following passages. Be sure to journal thoughts and prayers as they come to mind.

* **About the Lord:** Psalm 16, Psalm 23, and Psalm 37:3-7
* **About People:** Psalm 73 (when and how did Asaph experience a transformation in how his view of people was affecting him?)
* **About MPD:** I Timothy 6:17-19, Philippians 4:17, I Corinthians 9:6-11, Matthew 6:19-21
* **About yourself:** Read Ephesians 1 and Roman 8: 28-39 (Replace your name which each use of 'you' and 'us.')

"If God calls you to be a missionary, don't stoop to be a king." -- Jordon Grooms

**Question:**
What are other things which help you remember truth in MPD?

**Transformation through Prayer**

Henri Nouwen had much to say about having a right and Biblical perspective about raising money. Read the following excerpt from *The Spirituality of Fund Raising* related to prayer and gratitude. Journal thoughts and prayers related to this.

How do we become people whose security base is God and God alone? How can we stand confidently with rich and poor alike on the common ground of God's love? How can we ask for money without pleading, and call people to a new communion without coercing? How can we express not only in our way of speaking but also in our way of being with others the joy, vitality, and promise of our mission and vision?

In short, how do we move from perceiving fund-raising as an unpleasant but unavoidable activity to recognizing fund-raising as a life-giving, hope-filled expression of ministry? **Prayer is the spiritual discipline through which our mind and heart are converted from hostility or suspicion to hospitality toward people who have money.** Gratitude is the sign that this conversion is spreading into all aspects of our life. From beginning to end, fund-raising as ministry is grounded in prayer and undertaken in gratitude. **Prayer is the radical starting point of fund-raising because in prayer we slowly experience a reorientation of all our thoughts and feelings about ourselves and others.**

To pray is to desire to know more fully the truth that sets us free (see John 8:32). Prayer uncovers the hidden motives and unacknowledged wounds that shape our relationships. Prayer allows us to see ourselves and others as God sees us. Prayer is radical because it uncovers the deepest roots of our identity in God.

In prayer we seek God's voice and allow God's Word to penetrate our fear and resistance so that we can begin to hear what God wants us to know. And what God wants us to know is that before we think or do or accomplish anything, before we have much money or little money, the deepest truth of our human identity is this: "You are my beloved son. You are my beloved daughter. With you I am well pleased" (see Luke 3:22).

When we can claim this truth as true for us, then we also see that it is true for all other people. God is well pleased with us, and so we are free to approach all people, the rich or the poor, in the freedom of God's love. Whether people respond to our fund-raising appeal with a "Yes," a "No," or a "Maybe" is less important than the knowledge that we all are gathered as one or who we are with.

As our prayer deepens into a constant awareness of God's goodness, the spirit of gratitude grows within us. Gratitude flows from the recognition that who we are and what we have are gifts to be received and shared. Gratitude releases us from the bonds of obligation and prepares us to offer ourselves freely and fully for the work of the Kingdom. When we approach fund-raising in a spirit of gratitude, we do so knowing that God has already given us what we most need for life in abundance.

Therefore our confidence in our mission and vision, and our freedom to love the person to whom we are talking about donating money, do not depend on how that person responds. In this way, gratitude allows us to approach a fund-raising meeting without grasping neediness and to leave it without resentment or dejection. Coming and going, we can remain secure in God's love with our hearts set joyfully on the Kingdom.

**What is True of Me?**

Read through the following to be reminded of what is true of us who raise support.

* I serve the Lord God whose resources are infinite (Psalm 50:10-12) and who can abundantly provide (Ephesians 3:20).
* God has promised to meet all my needs, especially financial. It is a part of His character to provide for me (Philippians 4:19, Genesis 22:14).
* I have a personal calling from God to provide for the needs of my family (1 Timothy 5:8).
* My team of ministry partners is laying up treasures in heaven and is greater involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission because of their participation in my life (Matthew 6:20).
* I am inviting people to be partners in ministry with me by committing their time, prayers, resources and finances to what God is doing in our world. I am not begging for money or asking for a contribution (1 Thessalonians 1:8).
* My ministry is very significant since people have a need for God (Matthew 9:36; Romans 3:23, 6:23).
* My ministry is very significant since it addresses the root problem of our society and world (John 3:19b).
* My ministry is very significant since I am calling others to consider decisions that will affect their eternal destiny (John 11:25-26).
* God promises that those who give to my ministry will be more blessed by the giving than I am by the receiving (Acts 20:35).
* I am an encouragement to my ministry team in their own walks with God as they see what He is doing through me (1 Thessalonians 1:8).
* God is using me as an opportunity for obedience when others give to my ministry since He has called everyone to give financially to His work regardless of the amount of their personal income (Malachi 3:8,10; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5).
* I have committed my life to the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5: 18-20) I am worthy of my wages (1 Timothy 5:18).
* My ministry and life is freed to do all He has called me to do when I am fully funded (1 Timothy 6:6).
* As a laborer in the harvest, I am an answer to prayer (Matthew 9:37-38).