



### ***Sharing God's Abundance in Love!***

*CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.*

**Day 6—Friday, January 12, 2018**

**Prayer Focus—Community Groups & Side by Side Mentoring  
Abundant Gratitude**

***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

*Colossians 3:16 (ESV)*

When God's Word dwells abundantly in you – it's to say that it feels just like home. For his word to dwell, we must know him, and we must be well-acquainted with the Word of Christ. In Nehemiah, God provides a beautiful example of what it looks like to let his word dwell in us, give us wisdom, and to praise him with thankfulness in our hearts. God called Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. In Nehemiah 6, we read of the planned ambush of Nehemiah by enemies of the people of God – Sambala, Tobias, and Geshem the Arab. They planned to instill fear in Nehemiah with deceptions against his life; telling him, *let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and close the doors of the temple.* (V.10). Nehemiah was not deceived, because he knew that the statutes and precepts established by God required that only priests enter the temple of God; Nehemiah was not a priest – and so, he didn't enter. Otherwise, he would have entered the temple and gone directly to his death. Because he loved God first, before his own life, and trusted God, he obeyed the law of God and did not run in fear as his enemies planned. To love God is to obey—not as proof of our love, but out of response to it. Nehemiah preserved his life by obeying God. Today's verse and the story of Nehemiah remind us of our responsibility to study the word of God, so it will dwell in us, and through it, save our lives. He speaks to us in his Word.

We thank and worship God, singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord. I'm not able to achieve the life I live in Christ by exhorting others for myself. The Spirit of God acts and enables us to live in the Spirit, under His control. So you and I live in Christ. And in that place, the Spirit of God acts and enables us to live in him, singing to the Lord. If the Word of God dwells abundantly in you, with all its richness, then you will be filled with the Spirit of God; that is, the Holy Spirit.

**We come to God in this day to thank him for all that he is able to provide for us. He has blessed us and preserved our hearts and lives, and there is no amount of thanks that we can express but through our worship. And we will continue to worship his holy name.**

**We thank you for our community groups and Side by Side Mentoring, as they connect us in your word, teach us, and guide us, as we live in the community of Christ. In the holy and healing name of Jesus, Amen.**

Rosa Garcia

