



# CAPTIVATING Thoughts

**Faith makes all things possible ...  
love makes all things easy.**

**DWIGHT L. MOODY**

Love motivates. Love invites.  
Love secures. Love endures.  
Love is inviting. Love is a gift.  
Love protects. Love offers more.  
Love can be stirred. Love is restored, rekindled, and renewed. Love believes. Love overlooks. Love rewards. Love is patient. Love forgives. Love remains. Love corrects. Love is kind. Love hopes. Love redeems.

*For God expressed His love for the world in this way:  
He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not face everlasting destruction, but will have everlasting life.*

JOHN 3:16

Love is the source of mission & purpose. Love is the answer to our why.

– COACH ADAMS

The mission of C2C is to lead life transformation, facilitate family restoration, and support community healing for the glory of God.

## Living from a Free Heart

*Blog by Stacy Eldredge*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. – GALATIANS 5:1*

Let me ask you, dear one, what would you love to be free from? Is it sorrow? Regret? Resentment, addiction, shame, fear, worry, doubts?

What would you love to be free to do? Live your life? Follow your dreams? Love with abandon? Worship God? Experience Jesus—follow him, know him, believe him?

We can be free. Jesus came to set us free.

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. (Isaiah 61:1)

If we look more carefully at this verse (one of his favorites), we see it involves two things: we must find healing for our brokenness, and we must find freedom from the strongholds the enemy has gained in our lives. You were born into a world at war, dear ones. Surely you are aware of this—your life is opposed. Your love is opposed. Your hopes, your dreams, your friendships, your joy—all fiercely opposed. The sooner we come to terms with this, the sooner we can find victory.

God gave women a fierce heart; it is not only men who need to fight in the

battle. Yes, yes—we ask Jesus to rescue us. We ask him to fight for us. But we have a role to play, and much of that begins with a choice to break the agreements we have been making with our enemy. He knows your wounds; he knows the story of your life. He knows what works—for some it is fear, for others it is shame or bitterness, envy, indulgence. Christ comes to free us, but we must participate in our freedom by breaking the agreements we have been making with our enemy.

It all begins here — with an internal choice to let Christ so invade our hearts that we cannot be held to any sort of bondage internally. We chose to love, to forgive; we choose not to fear; we choose life. ♥

## Change Starts with Us

*Change creates opportunity, fosters growth, and facilitates success. – Coach Adams*

Anyone who knows me at all, knows I am a trail blazer and a refiner. So what does that look like in a real way?

Sadly it means I'm rarely satisfied. It's true. I'm always looking for a better, more efficient process, in order to deliver more for less. It's quite simple, in my mind, if I streamline, I get to add, bring, and do more!

That is exactly what has happening with the Team & ministry of Called to Change (C2C). We were blessed to add three and "a half" new volunteers, each sharing their talents, skills, & story.

Stephanie, a new ally of the ministry lives in Amarillo, served on the Ransomed Heart Ministry (RHM) resource team and found us on the RHM website. She joined our Prayer Warriors during out time at Hobby. She is also lending her creative talents to C2C through graphic and web site support. This is a big God kiss to me personally since I have carried this work myself but have grown too busy to maintain or grow our online presence. Thank you Stephanie for your irreplaceable role!

Maggie and Kristy are our newest Team members.

Maggie, Marcia, and I have known each other for over 20 years. We have served alongside each other with Mike Barber Ministry and at the Harris County Jail. Maggie is a great teacher and mentor and we are excited to have her join us. Do you see her beauty?

Kristy comes from Dallas and is new to prison ministry, but you may have noticed, she is not new to leadership, service, or shy about jumping in with hands raised high to God! Kristy brings a big talent for encouraging and sharing wisdom on changing behavior through improved brain development. Single for almost 10 years now, she knows all about waiting on God's best and His romance!

And finally, Kristi (note the "i" not a "y") is who I consider "half new" simply because after finding C2C on FaceBook three years ago, she finally got to join us at Hobby. I count it a victory and an honor to have had her with us, after all the enemy tried to keep her from coming at all by having her car repair take longer than estimated. Let me assure you, that while you may not have heard much from her during her one day with us, she didn't stop talking about you, sharing songs and scripture for you... Kristi saw you!

### [What does change look like for the ministry as an organization?](#)

It looked like God's favor! We ended 2017 by hosting our very first Captivating Experience at a

women's prison in Mexico. Not only did it "stretch" our Team it invited local community to be involved through the preparation and provision of a donated meal behind bars.

We are also busy developing our new Mentoring program, with the hopes to launch early summer.

As we (a Team and the organization) become all He intends (II Cor. 3:18) we are required to be willing to let go of old practices that no longer serve us well. Sound familiar? Let partner in our commitment to pursue Him at all cost, including our reputation. I Cor, 9:24. In Jer. 29:13-14 (msg) we are promised that we will not only find Him, we won't be disappointed, He'll turn things around for us, we will be brought back from where we were sent, brought home!

*God is not human, that He should lie, not a human being, that He should change his mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise & not fulfill? NUM. 23:19*

What has He said to you? What desires has He placed in your heart? ♥

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## In Defense of the Thank You

*Blog by Stacy Eldredge*

This isn't a vulnerable blog. It's an encouragement, or exhortation.

I just received the most lovely thank-you note in the mail. It made my heart so happy. I gave a gift, but they gave an even better one back to me. Thank-you notes do that.

After our wedding, 33 years ago (!), it took us three months to write all our thank-you notes. It seemed like they took FOREVER.

How amazing that we had so many to write! How incredible to be so blessed. When we got married we had nothing. We are still using the bounty we were given to help establish our home.

Writing thank-you notes has not been my strong suit. However, I'm trying to write them promptly so I don't forget, but I confess, sometimes they are written pretty late. I write them because I was taught to and I want to be polite. And also because (thank you, Jesus!) I am growing in gratitude.

Ann Voskamp's book One Thousand Gifts really struck a chord with many people. The posture of being thankful

is a soul-opening one. To see your life with a grateful heart opens up the possibility of a deeper connection with our good God and, dare I say it, the possibility to receive even more goodness from his generous hand! Being thankful takes our gaze off of what is wrong with us, our circumstances, and our world and places it on what is right. Ultimately, it turns our gaze to the Giver of all good gifts, who tells us in 1 Thess. 5:18 to give thanks in all things!

*God loves a cheerful giver! 2 Cor. 9:10  
He also loves a thankful receiver.  
Col. 3:15*

**God's blessings may come as a surprise and how much you receive depends on how much your heart can believe. May you be blessed beyond what you expect!**

Thank-you notes seem to have gone the way of rotary phones, and I've got to tell you, it's not progress. It's a regression we really need to stop.

There is something beautiful about receiving a hand-written note in the mail with stamp on it. Expressing your appreciation for a thoughtful (or even a strange) gift is important. You were thought of, planned on and given a gift. It cost them something. For heaven's sake, say thank you. Manners matter. Their hearts matter.

Okay, get out your pens and cards. Express your gratitude. Give your forgiveness. You'll be glad you did, and the receiver will be truly blessed.

Sing with a grateful heart. Write with one too. Exhorting done. ♥

### *My own thank you.*

Recently, on a particularly difficult day, I was considering "quitting". Now don't get excited, not like I was mad or sad and wanted to quit to escape. But instead, I was surrendering ALL in order to become who He intended me to be, including laying down the title "Coach". After all, it wasn't God who gave me that name. And it was about the "what" I do, the "who" I am. It was then that I stopped in at the post office and received a thank you from one of the Hobby ladies who attended Captivating in February. While it was received on behalf of the whole Team, I took it as a personal God kiss! ♥