

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Great in Power, The Lord Reigns, For All You've Done, The Wonder of Your Love

WELCOME

Count Your Blessings Today. Name at least 3 blessings you are thankful for today. Share them with your group.

WORD

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

¹³*in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

BEWARE OF ENTITLE-ITIS

Many people today have an entitlement mentality. We think and behave like the world and others owe us certain privileges, rights and benefits. We are afflicted with "entitle-itis", a spiritual disease which makes one believe that privileges are rights, and benefits are to be expected as a matter of rights.

The more successful we are, the more prone we are to entitle-itis. There may be times we tend to think that rules do not apply to us; we think we should be given special treatment; or we become demanding as if we are the center of the universe. Some other symptoms of entitle-itis include laziness, and having a mentality of "I want it now, I want it because everyone else has it, I expect others to fix my problems, I want happiness my way, Etc."

The cure to entitle-itis is being grateful and thankful. Gratefulness is the attitude of the heart and thankfulness is the expression of that gratitude. Survey says that people who are thankful are often the happiest while those who act entitled are oftentimes miserable.

BE GRATEFUL

We can develop the attitude of gratefulness through the practice of **C.P.R.** Since it's a heart issue, the remedy needed to cure a person spiritually infected by entitle-itis are the following: Count your blessings, don't compare; Positive perspective; and Recipient of grace.

Count your Blessings; Do not Compare. We should always give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for us in Christ (**1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:20**). To give thanks to the Lord also means to express our gratitude publicly (**Psalm 35:18**). Thanking Him should not be kept in private but should be declared to everyone who would listen. We

can practice this with our family, friends and colleagues. Out of the thankfulness of our heart, they will see our lives overflowing with joy as we make it as a privilege to declare our thanksgiving to God.

To be grateful also means to not compare ourselves with others. Doing so will only rob our joy. Oftentimes, it is easy for us to empathize and to weep with those who weep. But when others are in a better situation than us, we feel that it is us who should be in their place instead of just being grateful where we are right now. So rejoicing with those who rejoice becomes more difficult for us. To diffuse entitle-it is, we need to develop a mindset that avoids comparison.

Positive Perspective. In every situation, we should have the right perspective. We should focus on the good things. This means increasing our appreciation while decreasing our expectations. Because our expectations from others eventually turn into rights, we will end up demanding it as obligations from them. But any relationship, whether marriage, parenting, or discipleship, can become legalistic if it is based on expectations and obligations and so it is doomed to fail. Studies show that the key to happy and long lasting relationships is a sustained appreciation of one another.

Recipient of Grace; Surrender Rights. Instead of saying "I deserve this," we should learn to surrender our rights. To begin with, God does not owe us anything. Everything we have, including our salvation, is a gift from God. By having the right theology, we will not demand for our rights, instead we will be thankful for whatever it is we receive from God. The earlier we realize that God does not owe us anything, the lesser is the chance of getting ourselves afflicted with entitle-itis.

WORD (cont'd)

THE PARABLE OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

The Parable in **Matthew 20:1-16** which Jesus taught, illustrates for us an example of people's entitlement mentality. The verse before this parable is a lesson about the first becoming the last and the last becoming the first. This is the same lesson towards the end of the story.

The parable gives two perspectives: the laborers' and the land owner's. The laborers who worked for longer hours grumbled that they should be paid more than those who worked less (**v.11-12**). Their case will seem reasonable until one sees the perspective of the land owner (**v. 13-14**). Notice that the landowner actually did no wrong to the workers considering that before they started to work for him they agreed to receive a denarius. It is when they started to compare themselves with other workers that they demanded

for more and they forgot that before the owner hired them, they were jobless.

Many of us are like the workers in the Parable. Because we worked longer, we expect God to do something more for us. Eventually we make our expectations into our rights and it becomes God's obligations to us. This is why it is critical for us to have the right perspective to be able to diffuse an entitlement mentality. Keep in mind: God is sovereign. He owns everything and He does not owe us anything. He can do whatever He wishes to do with what He owns and for whoever He wants to do it. But like the landowner, God is generous and gracious. He can give the last workers less, but he can prefer to give them more.

Remember life is a gift from God. Every day is a blessing. The best cure to entitle-itis is to be grateful and give thanks to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Gratitude Attitude.** What do **1 Thessalonians 5:18** and **Ephesians 5:20** say about being grateful?
- 2. Entitle-itis Rx.** Do you find yourself with symptoms of entitle-itis? What is the best prescription for yourself?
- 3. White Flag Up.** Starting this week, how can you make intentional applications of C.P.R?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

In your small group, ask your members to share with the group their Pray Care Share (PCS) in Action for this week with the following guideline:

Name List & Relationship	Pray	Care	Share	Actions Done This Week
1. Dad Father	Pray for him every day, 5AM	Tend to his medical needs	Read Psalms every morning	
2. Beth Boss at work	Pray for her on Mondays, 12 noon	Do extra mile at work with her	A verse from Proverbs every Friday	
3.				
4.				

In your next meeting, ask everyone to share the status and actions done in the previous week. Make this a regular part of your Dgroup meeting to share with the group everyone's PCS in action.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends