



The Spirit of Entitlement

Liberation Freedom Ministries

By Pastor Donnie

What is a spirit of entitlement?

Entitlement:

The condition of having a right to have, do or get something, the feeling or belief that you deserve to be given something (such as special privileges)

Someone has a spirit of entitlement feels like everyone owes them. The person with an entitlement spirit usually complains and is critical of others instead of being thankful. Thanksgiving is the cure for someone who has a spirit of entitlement. Counting your blessings, realizing your blessings and thanking God is the answer for the poison of the entitlement spirit. The Word says to give thanks in all circumstances. When we have an attitude of gratitude and walk in humility then we don't let this spirit of entitlement have access to our thoughts and behaviors. If we struggle with a critical spirit and have trouble forgiving then we might want to pray and ask God if we have a spirit of entitlement where everything revolves around me.

Have you ever supported someone in need? Perhaps you have been on the receiving end of a generous gift. Many people will be ever grateful, having expected nothing then or in the future. But some people will be grateful for a moment. The gratitude turns to resentment when more gifts are not forthcoming. They have a sense of entitlement.

Have you ever known an employee with a decent salary and benefits to complain because he's not receiving more? He feels entitled.

Entitlement creeps into our marriages. We expect our spouses to serve us in a particular way because they've done so in the past, or because our parents treated us that way.

EXAMPLES

I was at work yesterday and the building cleaning lady told me, "I had to stop cleaning the bathroom because someone demanded that I stop doing what I was doing to come and vacuum their floor. Youth and Others Don't want to work, you owe me....you have to take care of me

The Impact of Entitlement on the Church

Unfortunately this entitlement mindset is firmly planted in the minds of so many in our churches and worse yet, seeded into our relationship with God.

So many Pastors and ministry leaders feel the pressure to keep up with the entitlement demands of many in the church. Many Pastors and leaders are suffering burnout and leaving the ministry in record numbers. The entitlement demands are simply too great. I'm hearing hundreds of pastors who are called end of quitting weekly.

In **Exodus 13-15** God brings a startling multi-stage miraculous deliverance of Israel from Egypt. It's truly breathtaking, culminating in the miraculous dividing and crossing of the Red Sea, and the destruction of the powerful Egyptian army pursuing them. If ever an intervention of God would be unforgettable, this surely was it.

But before **Exodus 15** is completed, Israel had already forgotten! A few days of travel and they are thirsty. This is understandable. God is not insensitive to their needs or ours. So do they fall on their knees thanking God for their deliverance, and humbly asking Him to provide them water? No, they grumble and complain and whine, and accuse Moses, and by proxy, God. (This passage proves that the spirit of entitlement did not begin in America, but we are perfecting it as an art form.)

The people find water, but it's bitter. They complain further. Moses throws the branch in the water, and it's purified. Grateful for the moment, they swear they'll never doubt God or Moses again. (Showing that we need more than periodic moments of gratitude, we need an ongoing spirit of gratitude to God that becomes the lens through which we view life.)

The Israelites in the wilderness are unbearably similar to us. When their circumstances are good, they see God. But as soon as their circumstances turn bad, they forget Him and all they have to be thankful for. It's as if present trials blot out and negate God's past track record of faithfulness.

Luke 17:11-19 tells the story of ten lepers who were all healed of their leprosy but only one of them returned to say "Thank you." He ran back to Jesus, praising God for His incredible goodness to him. Jesus asked him, "What happened to the other nine that were also healed?"

(Is. 14:12-14) "How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning? How you are cut down to the ground, you who weaken the nations! For you have said in your heart, 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also on the mount of the congregation, in the recesses of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High'"

Lucifer desired to be lifted high while Christ went low, to the grave, in the greatest act of service history has ever known. Our invitation is to serve and give ourselves for others just as Christ did.

(Phil. 2:3-8) "Let nothing be done out of strife or conceit, but in humility let each esteem the other better than himself. Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Let this mind be in you all, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. But He emptied Himself, taking upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in the form of a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross"

Attitudes of entitlement have overwhelmed so many and it is actually a clear manifestation of the enemy. His character is defined by selfish ambition. Lucifer presumed it was his right, his portion, to be exalted.

At the root of this spirit of entitlement is the sinful reality of PRIDE and a VICTIM spirit.

PRIDE is an inflated sense of self and leads one to believe he/she is worthy of all that he/she desires.

PRIDE leaves little, if any, regard for God and His greatness.

Thus, PRIDE fuels the spirit of entitlement in our hearts and sets us firmly, ironically enough, down the slippery slope toward moral devastation.

God's Word teaches that the perfect prescription for PRIDE and its Spirit of Entitlement is HUMILITY.

- Humility invites the GRACE of God, whereas Pride invites His judgment. [James 4:6]
- Humility births wisdom, whereas foolish Pride births disgrace. [Proverbs 11:2]

- Humility is rewarded with wealth, honor, and life, whereas Pride is rewarded with destruction. [Proverbs 22:4; Psalm 147:6]

At the root of this spirit of entitlement is the sinful reality of PRIDE (Continue)

- Humility cultivates relationship and communication with God, whereas Pride poisons it. [2 Chronicles 34:27]

A VICTIM spirit is a predator spirit, and its job is to attract the attention of all predator spiritual demons, and once the predator spirit has made connections with a victim demon, the two demons facilitate bringing their human hosts together to bring damage.

Sense of Entitlement Symptoms

By now you may be wondering: do I have a sense of entitlement? Like anything in life there is a spectrum, and while you may not be a full-blown narcissist or have a borderline personality disorder, you may exhibit a certain level of selfishness that makes other people's lives hard. If you have a sense of entitlement, symptoms include the following:

1. You impose unrealistic demands onto your family, children, friends, acquaintances, lovers, employees, and/or employers.
2. You tend to feel sorry for yourself if things don't work out the way you wanted (self-pity), and openly advertise this in melodramatic, attention-seeking ways.
3. People have called you a "bully", "manipulative", "ruthless", "egotistical", "vain", or a "liar".
4. You believe that you deserve happiness and go to great, sometimes extreme lengths to ensure that happens, often at the expense of others.
5. You punish people when they don't do what you want either passively (e.g. silent treatment, gossiping, spreading rumors) or aggressively (e.g. shouting, verbally/physically abusing).
6. In order to "succeed" in life, you believe in going to any lengths.
7. You constantly see other people as competition or "threats".
8. You tend to exhibit many double-standards in the way you behave/interact with other people, e.g. I can be late and forget my duties and commitments, but YOU can't; I can treat myself, but YOU can't; I can abuse or disrespect you, but YOU can't to ME.
9. You tend to take more than give in friendships and relationships.
10. You tend to look out for yourself, your needs and desires more than anyone else almost 100% of the time.
11. You have a hard time negotiating or compromising.
12. You have a deep-seated conviction that you have priority and should always come first, even at the expense of stepping on others.
13. People always seem to be offended or upset by what you do or say.
14. You generally think that you are better, or more important, than other people and other people should see this and unquestioningly respect you.

15. You crave admiration and adoration.

16. You like to assert your dominance or superiority over other people, finding it second nature