

They Knew...

*“Yes, they knew about Him all right, but they wouldn’t honor Him, worship Him **or even thank Him** for all His daily care” (Romans 1:21).*

They knew about Him...let that sink in a minute....They knew about Him... Those two words, "They knew" are sobering words.. and a big reason behind the continued focus for the Weekend Word on "Giving Thanks" to the Lord.

The written Word of God is one of the “weapons of your warfare” (2 Corinthians 10:3–5) that will bring down the vain imaginations or things you may have embraced intentionally or unintentionally. That’s part of why we devoted the weekend word to Thankfulness with the emphasis on changing wrongly embraced behaviors. After all, the opposite for being Thankful is feeling entitled. The weekend message is about asking Him to break off any area where you have allowed a “spirit of entitlement” to creep in. It’s asking Him to drench us in an attitude of gratitude. Look what I stumbled on while preparing for the weekend word:

According to New Oxford American Dictionary entitlement is listed as such: *“the fact of having a right to something;”* The spirit of entitlement is so pervasive that the American Psychological Association (APA) now defines it as: *an entire generation known as the Entitlement Generation: “those born between 1979 and 1994 who believe they are owed certain rights and benefits without further justification.”*

YIKES! We live in a world where so many people are ungrateful. As believers we should never be like that. It seems like everywhere you look individuals feel like “something is owed” to them and the spirit of volunteerism? OMG is almost non-existent unless they get something for their efforts. Seriously? The APA changed their definition!! That my friend is scary! Jesus did not call anyone to demand their own rights. As a matter of fact, He taught that we should be willing to surrender our rights for the sake of the gospel and others.

Life is not about you and what you want. It is about Him and what He wants. That’s it! His Kingdom come, His will be done. Entitlement is an attitude that puts a selfish demand on God’s gracious generosity and creates conditions in your relationship with Him that are unhealthy. If you believe that you deserve something, or if you "have it coming," how can you be grateful for what you get or have? Think about it. Entitlement is running rampant on the earth today. Entitlement leads people to believe they are owed something by others.

This spirit of “entitlement” has literally been absorbed into virtually every fabric of our society. You see this in individual demands or expectations for a certain standard of living even though they cannot afford it. Entitlement outweighs any sense of concern for others and focuses solely on personal gain.

Entitlement always starts with your thoughts. It is a mindset that begins to take root through the lack of thankfulness and selfish desires. There's something within human consciousness that causes people to feel entitled to all that is good—with no strings attached. Entitlement is totally inward, completely self focused and reveals just how self-centered a person really is.

In Romans 1:21, Paul seemed to be describing our society, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, **neither were they thankful;** but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (NKJ). These were believers where thankfulness towards God was missing. This means they didn't honor Him or thank Him (regularly) therefore their hearts were darkened. The effect of ingratitude rendered the heart hard and insensible. No wonder Paul called such suppression of the truth "ungodliness and unrighteousness" (1:18), they couldn't thank God daily even though He himself "gives to all mankind life and breath and everything" (Acts 17:25, ESV).

A spirit (or attitude) of entitlement can only have power in your life when your eyes are on what you "want." If you don't stop the effects of this spirit of entitlement, it will wound and harden your heart changing how you view God's goodness. The false concepts of entitlement have spread through our society have ruined a lot of people. Breaking the entitlement spirit within you means being thankful for what you have. You must adjust your focus to being like Jesus. You must focus on what you can do for others instead of what others can do for you. You must measure by the Word of God rather than by your wants or desires. You must cultivate an attitude of gratitude.

My friend, you were created for the pleasure of the Lord (Revelation 4:11). Make a point to start each day thanking God for all that He has given you. Thank Him for a new day of life. Thank Him for His mercy and grace. Thank Him for your family. Thank Him for His promises in the Word of God. Do this for the next 21 days and watch the difference it makes in your life. Stop right now and ask God to identify any entitlement attitude's in your life. This means anywhere you are ungrateful or pursuing your own agenda without thinking of others. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

Take a Little Time (Lindell Cooley)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMTmZKotTYw>

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