

TALKING POINTS

LIES WE BELIEVE - GOD OWES US

LEARNING IN

There are many lies we believe - in fact, some are so ingrained in our culture we barely take notice of them. A powerful cultural lie we all live in the midst of is entitlement. We were raised in entitled-based culture and often have entitlement thinking.

There are some important questions we have to ask ourselves so we can assess if we have entitlement in our own lives -
Do we impose unrealistic expectations of others and then get angry when they don't fulfill them?
Do we react poorly when we don't get our way?
Do we believe happiness should be achieved even at other's expense?
Do we take more than we give?
Do we crave admiration and have trouble compromising?

A spirit of entitlement has been present in our culture for some time now - but the most pressing issue is, has entitlement crept into our relationship with God?

A spirit of entitlement with God is a dangerous thing. When our focus becomes *what we have done for God, rather than what God has done for us*, we become entitled towards God. We replace a spirit of humility with a spirit of pride and self-glorification.

Read Matthew 7:22-23, Luke 18:10-14

Can you think of specific entitlement thoughts you need to be on guard against?

LIVING IT OUT

Since entitlement towards God (the idea "God owes me") puts us in opposition to God's will for us, it's essential we reject this lie. Here's three actions we can take to reject entitlement and honor God:

Discipline Your Mind With Truth - when we come to understand the truth of how dire our fallen condition is, we realize we don't have the right to demand anything of God.

Read Job 38:4-6, 2 Corinthians 10:5

How does "destroying arguments" help you "take your thoughts captive" in the day to day world?

Focus On Humility And Responsibility - humility is the great antidote for believing that God owes us something. Responsibility causes us to focus on others - not our "rights".

Read James 4:6, Philipians 2:3, Colossians 3:23-24

How does humility allow us to escape entitlement?

Fill Your Heart With Gratitude - the bigger our sense of gratitude, the smaller our sense of entitlement. Focus on the goodness, faithfulness and mercy of God.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 5:20

Can you share something in your life God has done which you are truly grateful for?