

THE ENTITLEMENT CURE



All of us face the temptation to exercise a life of entitlement—to live in the “I deserve” frame of mind. We make statements like “I deserve” that new job, that new car, a happier life, etc. But how might our outlook be different if we replaced “I deserve” with “I’m responsible for . . .” or “I’m committed to.” God’s Word has a few thoughts on the subject and we’ll explore them together this week on Discover the Word.



THIS WEEK’S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- We read in Proverbs 16:18 (NIV) that “pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” Is there a connection between pride and a mindset of entitlement? Why or why not?
- Do you like to take shortcuts, find the easy path, “get ‘er done” as fast as possible? How might this approach to the difficulties of life run parallel with a mindset of entitlement? Read Isaiah 50:6–7. In this prophecy about Jesus, how does it show Jesus approached difficult matters?
- “Responsibility” versus “entitlement”: what are the differences? How can the words “I deserve” not only trap us, but hinder God’s work in and through us? Read Luke 17:7–10 and ask, “Did the plowing servant have a heart of responsibility or entitlement?”
- Ecclesiastes 5 has some pretty strong words about keeping and breaking promises. Think about the last promise you made and why you either kept or broke that commitment.
- Look back over your week and think about “the hard stuff” that was required of you. How many of those tasks did you try to avoid? God addresses the topic with an example from the life of a small insect in Proverbs 6:6–8. After reading this passage, what might the Lord be encouraging you to do with the next difficult job on your “to-do” list?



CHALLENGE

How often do you hear the phrase “I deserve”? A feeling of entitlement can slip into our conversations and our way of life rather quickly. Does God’s Word address such a mindset? What steps can we take to see how deeply we may be entrenched in this way of thinking, and how might a deeper dependence on Christ reverse the pattern?



COMMIT TO MEMORY

“Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.”
(Isaiah 50:7 NIV).



PRAYER

Father, I realize how easy it is to feel I deserve certain things in life—that my world is more important than the world of those around me. Help me to recognize when I begin to lean this way, and help me to embrace a heart of servanthood—to consider others more important than myself. Amen.