

Gratitude: God's Solutions to Our Problems: Combination, Exodus 16:20-29; God's Blessings Based on Our Capacity to Glorify Him

1. Combination: God provides through a miracle or other means which require a response.
 - a. For example, the Jews needed food in order to survive. God provided them with manna, the result of a miracle.
 - b. The response required from the Jews was that they follow instructions.
 - c. The instructions were for each family to gather the amount of food they would need for one day's provision.
 - d. Further, on Fridays they were to gather a double portion since they were required to rest on the Sabbath.
 - e. They were warned not to gather more than they were instructed on any given day.
 - f. We learn in Exodus 16 that many did not follow directions well.

Exodus 16:20 - They did not listen to Moses and some left part of it until morning and it bred worms and became foul and Moses was angry with them.

Exodus 16:27 - And it came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather but they found none.

Exodus 16:28 - Then the Lord said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions?"

Exodus 16:29 - See, the Lord has given you the sabbath; therefore, He gives you bread for two days on the sixth day. Remain every man in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."

The principle which emerges from this paragraph is that no matter what your needs, God provides and your gratitude or ingratitude has nothing to do with it. But those with gratitude called it "*wafers with honey*" in Exodus 16:31 while those with ingratitude referred to it as "*miserable food*" in Numbers 21:5.

We also learn that the issue here was a matter of capacity. God does not supply us with blessings beyond our capacity to glorify Him. Capacity to glorify God and Christ is based on the intake of spiritual food.

With each spiritual advance the believer comes to more and more appreciate the fact that his very survival is based solely upon God's grace provisions. When doctrine makes us conscious of the fact that the benefits we receive from God are unmerited and undeserved there emerges the mental attitude of gratitude. Once you realize that all your needs are guaranteed, then a sense of happiness begins to develop and increases with you advancing capacity.

The first-generation Jews had no capacity and therefore no gratitude, but they still ate the food, otherwise they would not have known how it tasted to them.

Principle: Ingrates always complain about what they are given but they never refuse to take the handout.

When we complain we are voicing our displeasure with divine provision which is tantamount to rebellion against the plan of God. Rebellion against divine instruction and complaints over divine provision indicates status quo carnality, the active function of arrogance, and the absence of humility. Consequently, these people have no gratitude and as a result have no capacity for blessings. Obviously, they can never be happy.

When a believer fails to develop humility, gratitude, and happiness, this soul is soon polluted by arrogance, rebellion, and bitterness.

There are clear and lucid mandates and instructions in opposition to all three:

James 4:6 - God makes war against the arrogant but He give grace to the humble.

1 Samuel 15:23 - Rebellion is as the sin of divination and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.

Hebrews 12:15 - See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble and by it many be defiled.

There is a mental attitude which is developing within the Zeitgeist of our Client Nation and it is bitterness. Bitterness is venom in the soul which comes from the SWAT Team's insurgency of arrogance and rebellion.

Numbers 21:6 - The Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people and they struck the people so that many citizens of Israel died.