

Gian Carlo Villatoro

The “G” Effect

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The

Effect

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“The Lord is my strength and
my defense; He has become my
salvation.”
Psalm 118.14



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Today's Message



The Effect

“The Lord is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation.” **Psalm 118.14**

“_____.” **Psalm 118.8**

The Entitled one thinks:

I will be fine _____ 

I will _____ 

I don't _____ 

I _____ 

The Servant of God thinks:

I will _____ 

I will _____ 

I will _____ 

I _____ 

Believers should NOT _____
like little children that only want to play.

Kids are entitled because
they are _____

Lord, I love You and trust in You. _____
Your name

The “G” Effect

What exactly is the G effect? The G effect basically is the tiger effect, as long as the tiger is the real tiger, our God Lord Almighty. And I have beautiful scriptures to share with you this time. I want to invite you to read out loud with me this first scripture in Psalm 118.14.

"The Lord is my strength and my defense. He has become my salvation." Let's do it again.
"The Lord is my strength and my defense. He has become my salvation."

For how many people is this scripture a reality? How many people have experienced that being in the presence of God, you have received God's strength? When you were weak, He gave you the strength. When you were afraid, He gave you peace. When you were lost, He gave you direction. He is the strength of our lives. That is one of the beautiful Psalm scriptures that we can recite.

However, what about those moments when you feel chased? Do you remember at some point in your life that you felt that someone was after you? It was like a shadow. Some people feel that way. Some people have experienced that in the middle of the night. They are walking in their homes and they feel that there is something behind them...

Sometimes it happens in the streets. It's important to make a very crucial comment to the ladies. Ladies, when you are outside shopping, doing your work or whatever, you always need to be extremely careful to look around who is near you. And you have to be careful with some guys that you don't know that approach you. You have to be very careful about it. You don't play the Good Samaritan in those contexts. No. You have to be careful and prudent because you don't know what's going on in the mind of those people.

But there is a moment when you feel chased, you feel like someone is behind you. Sometimes, the one who is behind you, is a bank, a credit card, or a lab exam test results, and you are thinking, "What is going to happen?"

What about those moments when you feel exhausted? What about those moments when you are just about to start your work, or your week, and you are already tired? What about

those moments when you are in the middle of the day and you just can't pick your lunch and you just don't know what to eat or what to drink, and you just know that you're exhausted? You just think, 'It is just Monday. I cannot wait to have a Friday night.' It happens sometimes - the lack of energy, the lack of enthusiasm, the lack of health, the lack of money, the lack of a good relationship, the lack of peace in our homes, etc. All those things can affect us. It makes us feel exhausted. That is when that scripture is very important to recite, "The Lord is my strength."

Do you know what Psalm 118 says in verse 8? "It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in people."

One day, I remember one of my friends asked me, "So you don't trust me, Gian? Because you say all the time that it's better to trust in the Lord than to trust in people. So you don't trust me?" Kidding, I told him the story of what happened to me when I was growing up. I remember I wanted to go to my cousin's, and my dad said to me, "When you arrive there, you call me to let me know you are there. And when you go with your cousin to see those friends, you call me to let me know you are already at your friend's. And when you come back to your cousin's, you call me again to let me know you are back at your cousin's. And when you come home, you called me again to let me know you are back home."

I was probably 14 years old, and I said, "Dad, I'm not that dumb. I can manage. I'm going to use the public transportation. I know the bus that I need to take. Why do you want me to call you? I see. You don't trust me, dad. That's the problem. You don't trust me." My dad said to me, "Son, it's not that I don't trust you. Simply, I don't trust you." I thought, 'What is that supposed to mean?' I didn't get it.

Later in life I understood. As a parent, he was concerned for me. Naturally, he wanted to make sure that I was doing the right thing. I told this story to my friend who asked me the question, "Do you trust me, Gian?" And I said, "Well, this is what happened with my dad." But my friend insisted, "Do you trust me, Gian?" And I said, "I will tell you what the scripture says, the Bible tells me that I need to love you."

And that is what you need to do with everyone around you. Love them. But speaking about levels of trust, for example, you say, "This person is going to do the job. This person

is going to carry that thing. This person is going to do this or that.” That kind of trust is a level of confidence that someone will be responsible for doing something. That is okay.

Psalm 118.8 is talking about your putting your hope in somebody. Someone would say, “Oh, this girl is going to transform my life. She is the one!” And the same thing happens to a girl, she says, “Oh this guy... he is terrific. You know, he is A, B, and C, the whole checklist. He's the one.” Someone else says, “This company, that's the real company. I met this guy, and he's phenomenal. He's the owner of this company. He owns like 10 other companies. He's great. He's this and this and that.”

In that context, do not trust in people. Do not put all your hope in people. That is what this scripture is telling us. No, you put your trust in the Lord. That's what you need to do.

ENTITLEMENT MENTALITY

In times of difficulty, believers are in risk of making a huge mistake. Do you know what is that mistake? It's developing a mentality. It's called the "entitlement mentality". We are going to discuss four aspects that can tell you if you are, or are not, entitled, or if you know someone that is, or is not, entitled.

What is the first sign of someone that is entitled? That person is in the midst of trouble and says, "I will be fine. Someone is going to do something about it." That is the first sign. Entitled people just think that way. "No, it doesn't matter what's going on. Someone is going to do something about it." In the company, there is a necessity there and they say, "No, someone is going to do something about it. I know that." In the house, there is a need. "Someone is going to do something about it." In the church, there is a need. "Someone is going to do something about it." That's the first sign of entitlement.

The second sign is this: the person says, "I will just see what happens. I don't have to do anything. I'll just see what happens."

And the third sign is similar: the person says, "I don't have to do anything." Simple as that. "Someone is going to do it. I will just see what happens. I don't have to do anything."

Fourth sign: the person feels, "I deserve to be helped."

Do you see this? With those four signs you can tell if someone is, or is not, entitled. I know you are thinking of somebody, somebody that you know and you're thinking, 'check, check, check, check'. This is exactly the definition of this person. It's exactly like that. Wherever we are, whatever the situation is, the mentality is, "Someone is going to do something about it. I want to just wait to see what happens. I don't have anything to do. You know, after all, I deserve to be helped."

That is a wrong attitude, and there are many individuals that feel that way. There are many adults that feel that way and act that way. Do you know what some people say? "Well, the reason is because of the color of my skin. I suffer discrimination." Then they go in the line of entitlement. Some other people say, "Well, you know, it is because of the country that I was born in. That's why I feel entitled." Or, "I was born without one ear." Entitled people will find whatever reason to justify their entitlement, and that is a bad thing to do.

When we are talking about The "G" Effect, and what the meaning of that is, after we have recited the verse, "the Lord is my strength", here is one thing that you have to understand. Entitled people will never get strong. Say it with me. "Entitled people will never get strong." It's the opposite. They get weaker and weaker and weaker. Entitled people just don't want to do anything. Somebody has to fix it. Somebody has to do it.

Now, when we understand that our strength comes from God, what do we need to do? We pray. And we take our time to reflect. "This is a tough situation. I got to do something about it." Here is where your mentors are important, the ones that you know that they love you and are wise people. You make a call, you send a text message, and you ask them, "What do you think about this situation?" Always ask for your mentors' view. Your mentor is not your boss. Your mentor is not your master. He's not your supervisor. Your mentor is someone who loves you and will give you his/her viewpoint.

You probably would find this very interesting. One of my mentors is a lady. She was VP for a huge corporation in America. When I have certain questions and I reach out to my mentors, I include her and I call her to make an appointment, and eventually I say, "Hey Merle, what would you do in this situation?" She will give me her viewpoint, a total different an-

gle, a total different perspective. You trust in the Lord, but you ask for someone's opinion because that will give you ideas of what to do.

However, entitled people think, "I don't need to call anybody. I already know what I'm going to do." They already made a decision, "Someone is going to do it." It is the epitome of irresponsibility.

SERVANT'S MENTALITY

In times of difficulty, true believers assume the right attitude before God. And what is that attitude? It's not the entitlement mentality. It's the servant's mentality. A believer assumes the attitude of a servant, a servant of God. There are four signs for this, as well.

Here's the first sign. The believer says, "I will obey what the Bible says. I will do what the scripture says. The scripture is telling me that this is what I should do. I will do what the scripture says. I don't need to guess at it." If you are struggling with problems, and you want to find solutions to your problems, you need to understand that the Bible is the Word of God. The Bible will guide you to find a solution. The first thing is to surrender to God by admitting that His word is true, the Bible. A Servant's mentality is this. Number one, you say, "I will obey what the Bible says.

The second sign of a God's servant is this: he or she says, "I will put all my trust in the Lord. Not part of my trust, not a good portion of my trust. All my trust in the Lord." What is all? It's the absence of nothing. It's the completion. It's a total trust in God.

In everything you do, you put your trust in the Lord. In the midst of your troubles, you just put your trust in the Lord. You are going through your week, finding difficulties in your work, struggling with health problems, trying to find a way to pay all the bills, or maybe even with huge technology challenges in your work and you just don't know what to do. You will put all your trust in the Lord. You say, "Father, I believe that You will help me to fix this problem. I don't know how."

In Victory Church we use high technology to broadcast live video and audio, on top of all the tools that we use on our website and social media websites. Since we started Victory Church, I have faced innumerable problems, from the simplest thing of connecting microphones with speakers, and through the whole thing of what we do now, which is so professional and complex. Praise God, in every single one of those challenges, when I didn't know what to do, after I read the manual, I made the phone call. I researched online to learn what to do in each one of those instances. I came to the point where I knew that it was, for me, impossible to fix it. I prayed. I said, "Lord, what can I do? I don't know, but I trust you, Lord." Because when you don't know what to do in your life, or with things in your life, you put your trust in the Lord, and He will guide you. My testimony to you is this: In each one of those challenges, I prayed the same thing: "Father, I don't know what to do. Help me. Guide me. I trust You."

Some of those things were fixed just by changing a switch, just by turning a certain device on or off. Other things were a little bit more complicated. But in each one of those cases, I know that it was the Lord guiding me to talk to somebody, or to read something, or just to experience something with the equipment, with the software. Every single time, voilà! The Lord brought the solution, and you know what? After each challenge, and I still do this, I laugh and laugh and laugh, and I say to the Lord, "You are good, Lord. How you can do that? You know everything. I just love it. I'm glad that I am a little bit dumb with those things, Father, because I can see Your greatness!" You put all your trust in the Lord. That is the second characteristic of a God's servant.

The third sign is this: the person says, "I will do everything that I can do." You will do everything you can do. You try this, you try that, you try this, and you try that. You don't give up easily. You just keep on trying, keep on going, keep on attempting. You are trusting in the Lord. You are praying and you do what you can. You are not going to be a cry baby. You are not going to be a little girl. You're not going to be that kind of person. We feel like that sometimes. "I really don't know what to do." But you know what? You try your best because the servant of God is a person that knows that the Father of Lights is the One Who gives us all good gifts. Did you know that? He is the giver of all gifts. If someone needs wisdom, He will give them wisdom. If someone needs strength, He will give them strength. If someone needs resources, He will give them the resources. He is the source to solve all

our problems. All solutions come from God. We find the solution(s) in the scripture, because we believe in the Bible. We put our trust in the Lord. Next thing, we do everything we can. We don't give up. We don't give up! Here is where the strength of God is going to come to you. You will see it. You will sense it, and you will say, "Man, I was really tired. I just felt chased by all these problems. I felt really exhausted, but by trusting in the Lord, and doing what I can, I just feel so energized. Even though I don't have the problem resolved, I will keep on going. "Lord, You will give me the strength! You will give me the strength, and You will guide me to find the solution to all problems."

BIG DIFFERENCE

Sometimes, my friends, the problems that we are facing are so simple, yet complex at the same time. We are searching for something. It could be our medication. It could be the key to a particular lock. It could be the username and password to a website. It could be your driver's license, anything. A little thing that matches with another thing. A little pocket to put something in. Sometimes our problems are as simple as that, but they are complex because without those things, we cannot do anything.

I want you to see the big difference between the entitlement mentality and the servant's mentality. The entitlement mentality leads the person to say, "I don't know where that thing is. I just can't find it. I just don't know what to do. I give up. I don't care. Someone has to do it." And then we develop this attitude of demanding from others to fix our problem. "I need someone to come here and fix it right away."

The servant's mentality is different. The person is thinking and praying and says, "I got to continue looking for this thing. I got to continue putting forth effort in this thing." The one that is entitled gives up quickly. That's why they become so weak. But if you are a servant of God, you will continue searching. You will continue working. You will continue to lookin. You will continue putting forth effort. That is when you get stronger and stronger. Your strength comes from the Lord, yet you are doing your part. You are doing everything you can. That is the big difference.

You see that in a home. Go to houses and you will see the entitled ones, versus the servant ones. Go to companies. You will see the entitled ones, versus the servant ones. Go to

churches and you will see the entitled ones, versus the servant ones. Go anywhere. You will find the entitled ones. What is that mentality again? "I don't know. Somebody has to fix it. I'm not going to do it." The servant ones are thinking, "Okay, well, we're going to look for a solution."

The fourth sign of a servant of God is they know that everything he/she does is because of God. The person says, "I must serve God and everyone around me."

Now, I would like to invite you to say out loud with me, "I must serve God and everyone around me." One more time. "I must serve God and everyone around me."

That's the true servant. However, what is it that we usually say? "Well, I must, I should, well, I sometimes serve God." That's the first thing that we say. "Well, sometimes I've served God, but I would barely serve somebody else". The true servant of God always serves God in everything he/she does, and is willing to serve everyone around them. Everyone? Everyone! That is what we are called to; to serve.

The Lord Jesus said, "I came to give My life and serve you?" Look what Matthew 20.28 declares: "Do as I did: The Son of Man did not come for people to serve Him. He came to serve others and to give His life to save many people." Isn't that what the Lord Jesus did? Served us? Isn't that what the Lord does for us? He provides for us. He serves us. He gives everything He can so we can do our job. That is the servant's heart; you don't care if the ones around you appreciate your service or not.

For those who are working in companies and they feel that the rest are taking advantage of you, I want you to know this. If you keep working hard, and you serve the Lord, and if you serve the Lord with all your heart, and you serve everyone around you, someone is going to watch you and is going to say, "I want that person to work for me." The Lord is going to take you to higher places, to better places when you serve others, but not as a mask, just to pretend. No. When you do it for real, you do it in your home. You do it in your church. You do it in your school. You do it in your neighborhood. You do it everywhere you are. That's a servant's heart. And that is when you get The "G" Effect, the power of God in you, by serving the Lord.

LITTLE CHILDREN

Believers should not behave like little children that only want to play. Have you ever heard a little kid say, "Good morning, mommy. Can I do the dishes this morning?" Can you imagine the little one saying, "Mom, dad, don't worry about your bedroom. I got it. I want to clean up your bedroom. I'm going to make your bed"? No! What do little children do? They play. Now, what happens in life? What is the only thing that little children want to do? To play. The funny thing about it is that some of those "little children" have mustaches and beards, and some are adult women. They are grown up. It doesn't matter how old the person is, but you see the big difference. There are a bunch of children out there. All that they want to do is to play. They don't want to assume responsibilities.

Why is it that children want to play? Because they are little ones. That's the reason. These kids are entitled to do that. In your home, the little ones are entitled because they are little ones. But can you imagine you have grown up children that are in bed, and they are expecting that you will come to rub their heads and their backs? "Sweetie, it's time to go to work." Their answer is, "I don't want to go to work Mama." You say, "But you are 35 years old. You are 42. You live in my home, baby. How do you want your eggs? You are 62 years old, daughter. What do you want me to buy you in the grocery store? I'll bring it for you." Really?!

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SALVATION

Children are entitled because they are little ones. But what about adults acting like little children in need? We should help them with what we can do. If there are some things that we can do to help them because of health or financial reasons, that's understandable. However, we know, according to Psalm 118.14, "The Lord is my strength and my defense. He has become my salvation. God will give us His strength. He will give us His strength." He will, but adults need to become warriors, people who are ready to go to battle every morning. You should be ready to go to battle.

You wake up thinking, "Okay Lord, give me the strength. Give me the strength because I have to do certain things today. I don't have the strength, but I will find it. You will give it to me, Lord. I will trust in You, Father. You will help me."

You don't rely on people to do things for you. There are some things that people will do for you. They will help you. But who is responsible of your life? "You Pastor." No, I'm not. "My Mama, my daddy, my husband, my wife." No. Everyone is responsible for his/her own life. Meaning what? Meaning that you need to take care of everything that you need to take care of. Everything. You will find people that will help you, but don't put all the load and burden on those people. That's not right.

Do you remember Peter after he realized he had betrayed the Lord Jesus? Have you lived that? Have you arrived to that point in your life when you have realized that you have betrayed the Lord, that you betrayed yourself? Maybe you have said that prayer, "My God, my Lord. Help me." Some of us, including myself, have lived horrible experiences in life that we were like Peter, alone in the rain, in the middle of the storm, on our knees, yelling, "God, my Lord, please help me", because God will always help us when we come to Him. Don't you ever forget that. Sometimes we make wrong decisions and it's possible that we have been a little bit entitled in certain things. Think about it. Perhaps you have been a little bit entitled in certain areas.

Today's a good day to change that and say, "Lord, I need to change. I need to do things differently." The people of Israel lived experiences like that over and over again, and the Lord has always been with them.

This is the most important question we need to ask ourselves. What could we do without the Lord? Are you able to pray and say, "Lord, what could I do without You?" There is nothing that we can do without Him. We need Him. The Prophet Hosea in Chapter 10 tells us things about Israel. The people of Israel tried to trick God. Isn't that familiar? The Lord said, "They must accept their guilt. He will break down their altars and destroy their memorial stones. Also, if you plant goodness, you will harvest faithful love. Plow your ground and you will harvest with the Lord. He will come and He will make goodness fall on you like rain. But you planted evil and you will harvest the trouble. You ate the fruit of your lies because you had trusted in your power and your soldiers."

Hosea 14.1-7a “Israel, you failed and sinned against God, so come back to the Lord your God. Think about what you will say and come back to the Lord.” Say to Him, “Take away our sin and accept these words as our sacrifice. We offer You the praise from our lips.” The Lord says, “I will forgive them for leaving Me. I will show them My love without limits because I have stopped being angry. I will be like the dew to Israel. Israel will blossom like the lily. The people of Israel will again live under My protection. They will grow like grain. They will bloom like a vine.”

The promise of God. It happened to Israel. It happens to us. We got lost. We got confused. We just went in the wrong direction. But now we need to come back to the source of our strength, which is our Lord, God Almighty, and receive from Him His forgiveness and His strength, His wisdom, that understanding about what we need to do. Then you will be like the tiger. You can have a comeback. The Lord is the specialist in giving us second chances, and third chances, and fourth chances. He will always give us a new chance. You have a new chance to do it again, an opportunity to do everything again. You can say, “Father, I messed up big time in many areas.” All that we need to do is reconnect with God. How do we do that? By opening our hearts.

Join me in this prayer, please.

“Dear God, I acknowledge that I am wrong. I confess my sins before You. I am sorry that I have been prideful and entitled. You are good, Lord. You are merciful. I am sorry. I am truly sorry. I know you have wonderful plans for me. I am sorry that I have sinned against You. Please forgive me, Lord. I pray in the name of Jesus that You will give me a new opportunity to restart my life. I need to change. Please help me, Lord. Thank you for Your mercy. Thank You for your kindness, and thank You for Your forgiveness.

I thank you for reading!

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