

The Gratitude Attitude

The late Zig Ziglar, author and motivational speaker, told the story of his friend, Bill Schiebler, “a man who lives by the philosophy that you can have everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want.”

Even though Bill had multiple sclerosis, “his attitude of gratitude was very apparent as he shared the following incident with me,” Ziglar said.

Bill explained that his MS causes him to tire easily, and one day he was especially exhausted as he drove, very slowly, into his driveway. He knew he really needed to rest and wanted to be left alone.

At that particular moment, however, his electrician (who had two gardens on Bill’s land) came briskly walking up and eagerly told Bill that he had planted some vegetables for him. Bill thanked him and went inside to take a nap.

Sleep eluded him, and he wasn’t getting much of a rest. He abruptly sat up in bed, realizing he hadn’t acknowledged the electrician’s kindness with a very grateful spirit.

He got up immediately, went outside to his garden, apologized for his lack of gratitude, and “warmly thanked him the way I should have in the first place.”



The electrician, Bill said, “knows I have MS. He also knows how critical it is that I get my rest. When he realized I had interrupted my nap just to show appreciation for his kind gesture, he beamed at my specific token of gratitude. Know what else? I went back inside and took a restful nap. The electrician went back to his gardening and planted more vegetables for me. We both won that encounter.”

That story is instructive for all of us, particularly in our work for Life Care and Century Park, with the residents, their families, our co-workers and volunteers with whom we serve and are assisted by. An attitude of gratitude benefits everyone.

– Beecher Hunter