

Developing a Good Attitude

By John Miller

Before casting something into a shape the mold has to be fashioned. The foundation of anything (building) must be laid before you can build on it. If you have a bad attitude towards life and others, you have a poor attitude about yourself. Expect more good out of life than bad. A lot of people wait for something bad to happen; they expect it. It happens.

Some people don't expect things to work out and a lot of times they don't (attitude). How many reasons can you think of to grow stronger in God? One could be spending time with others who have a good attitude.

Maybe you don't have a good attitude because of your position in life. Believe it or not, but you only have a good position in life when you have a good attitude. Have you every heard the phrase, "If we aim at nothing, we usually hit it". To be happy and successful in life you have to have a goal. Sometimes you hit it, sometimes you don't. Remember not to lose your good attitude.

Look at most handicapped people. While they have setbacks, they can have a good attitude about themselves and overcome the difficulties they face. While the handicap exists, because of their good attitude, it doesn't bother them. Doesn't it ever make you wonder, "Who is truly handicapped?"

It has been estimated that less than 5% of all people are working toward a goal. That is hard to believe, isn't it?

To be a Christian and go to heaven is one main goal that we need to decide upon. How many people with a bad attitude are in heaven? (None I hope). In truth, we become what we think. In Proverbs 23:7, the Bible says, "For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, "Eat and drink!" But his heart is not with you." In essence we are the sum total of our thoughts.

Some area in which we need to develop good attitudes toward life include:

1 Pet 3:10

10 For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.

Deut 30:19-20

19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,

20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

How important is it to have a good attitude towards anyone or anything (work / family). Poor, bad or don't care attitudes are unacceptable. Will you learn if your attitude is poor about learning? (NO) What about your attitude with people? They will likely have an attitude about you? What we achieve in life, or fail to achieve is due to our attitude. If you think you can't, you won't. If you think you can, you will or will come close to doing it.

Life is a gift from God and we should have a good attitude about life. In Genesis 2:27 the Bible records, "Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." God has given us or will give us abundant life if we only follow Him. If we have God in our heart, what else do we need? For some this is easy while for others this is hard work because of their attitude.

This is all basic and most everyone know this, but its good to go back and rethink about where we are at, so we can go and do something about it. A good example of this is when a sport team we go back to the drawing board when things aren't going their way.

A story is told about a man who shined shoes for a living. He worked hard for a living, put in long hours and saved his money until he started his own company. This man became rich, one day a friend of his saw him in the building where he started shining shoes. When he asked his friend about why he was there, he said whenever I get too big headed; I go back to what I was.

Sometimes it is good for us to go back to where we started. The Bible says that we are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). The work of the devil is targeting your life. He works to destroy God's work. The devil started in the Garden of Eden in Genesis chapter 3 and is still at work today. The apostle Peter told early Christians that the devil was their adversary who was seeking to devour them.

Life gives us a lot of choices to make. We make many decisions in our lifetime. We are free to make any choice we want, because man wanted it that way. We are not forced, but sometimes we think we are to make decisions we don't want to make. It is a matter of personal choice like Joshua said, "choose for yourselves." (Josh. 24:15)

Our attitude in life is important because this life is short. James said we are like a mist that appears for a short time and then disappears. He added that we do not know what tomorrow brings (James 4:14). Does that mean that we need to get what we can out of life. Yes, as long as we are serving God and not the world. Even in dying you have to have a good attitude. No one likes to think about death, but one day it will happen (I Cor. 5:1).

Are we ready for death? Is it as bad as we think it will be? With the right attitude being a Christian you have a good place to go to. Paul had the attitude that if it was time for him to depart, he had kept the faith and was ready for his crown (I Tim. 4:6-8). Is this an easy

attitude to have? No. We have to work at it 24 hours, 7 days a week. Anything that is good is worth working for.

In conclusion, let's say:

1. Attitude shows what we have on the inside
2. We need to keep our thinking straight. For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.
3. Attitude, attitude, attitude.