

New Year— New Attitude!

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Post Advent

Beginning this New Year by repenting of sins in a private prayer before God; accepting the forgiveness Jesus offers through our faith in His atoning Blood; forsaking past sins by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; and then committing *our* will to be *God's* will from this day forward—that is the right way to begin the *New Year of 2023!*

After being tempted in the wilderness, Jesus left Nazareth and went to Capernaum—fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. *Matthew 4:16-17* “*The people which sat in darkness saw great light; 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” The decision to *repent* and ask God for spiritual *light* is *first* on the list for 2023!

We *have* to begin the *New Year* with a right *attitude* toward everyone; toward everything; and toward God's Word. He is *speaking* to us and *guiding* us through His Word, the Bible. We *have* to be willing to make *attitude changes* along the way to correct our course as we *make* our way to the Kingdom—there is no entering if our heart is not clear of rebellion.

We all *start* life with a rebellious attitude—one that does *not* want to believe, will *not* forgive anyone, and will *not* trust God for anything. The mindset of the *world* is opposite to the mindset of the *Lord*. Starting right; continuing to trust God; being willing to forgive; and putting our faith in Jesus so we *can* meet things right, strikes a mortal blow to Satan's control.

Being willing to do what God tells us to do is so important—because spiritual progress can be hindered if we are stubborn or insist on having our own way. Fortunately, we *can* change that *wrong* attitude by a *right* choice to *repent* and *restart*—following this sequence: *Obey* God's Word; *Forsake* sins of the past; *Make* a new start; and *Take* a new attitude!

Hebrews 3:7 “*Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, [warns] To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation [rebellion], in the day of temptation [testing] in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works [what I did] forty years.*”

We should *not* test God but *trust* God. Hebrews 3:10 “*Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) 12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*”

Seeing spiritual *growth* in our life by learning spiritual *lessons* of trust on God, is a *must* issue. Most proclaimed believers have *not* made a right start, so the result is—*not learning* how to *trust* God in *faith* for things *in life*. God's *Truth of trust* on Him and doing His will by faith, is just not part of the world's thought-process.

New Year—New Attitude! just by *repenting*—but *this* time making a real *commitment* to *trust* only on God. If we *stay* committed to *doing* God's will, He will convict us of anything *outside* of His will—that enables us to move forward in the faith.

When God shows us that some decision we *made*; something we *did*, the way we *talked*, or some plan we *followed* was not according to His will—we must make *corrections* and *not* repeat mistakes. When we try to build something and it does not turn out right, we make changes in the

sequence we followed—so the *second* results are different from the *first* results.

Conviction of our *heart* brings a *change* of our *attitude*—that correction is *vital* because Jesus says: Be *Matthew 18:3* “*Converted, and become as little children,*” if we expect to enter God's kingdom. If we are following a plan that is *not* in the will of God, and He convicts us of heading in the wrong direction, we are to *change* that plan and attitude immediately.

Many issues may be dealt with along life's path, but each one is part of God's teaching *plan* for our spiritual *progress*. Hebrews 12:11 “*No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised [trained] thereby.*”

Everyone begins life with a self-willed nature that *has* to be converted. Satan *first* has control of our attitude—and he wants to *retain* control of it. Satan does *not* want us to trust God, *nor* obey His Word concerning anything.

The devil says God's plans are unworkable, impractical, and not realistic—that is the attitude we *begin* with—that is the *big* disadvantage we have from day one! We begin by being convinced that our way is *right* and that God's way is *wrong*. If we *re-start* by *repenting* of this rebellion and surrender *our* self-will to be *God's* divine will—our attitude *will* lead us in the *right* direction!

This *new* way has always been the *right* way, but only a *few* ever *learn* that truth. World population is over 8 billion people, yet only a *small* fraction of that *huge* number realizes that a sin nature controls their life. *1 Corinthians 2:14* “*The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*”

Job had a self-righteous attitude—but he did not *know* it. He was living a right life *outwardly*

but controlled from self *inwardly*. God used drastic measures to convince Job that this self-righteous attitude was *not* right and *had* to be revealed and removed. After many troubles and calamities, Job was convinced that *he* was wrong, and *God* was right.

This big change of *attitude* brought a big change in Job's *life*. God was able to give *back* to him everything Satan *took from* him. Job now *knew* that God *means* what He says—and that he *had* to follow God's plan by *faith*—if he wanted eternal *life*.

The more willing we are to listen to God, the sooner we will learn how this divine plan of trust works. If we are *open* to conviction and *willing* to change, we will move forward in a life of trust. Satan wants us to be *defiant*, but God wants us to be *compliant*. Trials and tests reveal wrong ways in us.

God wants everyone to *know* that the ways of the world are *wrong*, and that rebellion will take people to the flames if not corrected. God is 2 Peter 3:9 “*Longsuffering [patient] to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*”

The Tribulation that is coming will show everyone that living by the control of the devil is what *causes* massive devastation. The Millennial reign of Christ will prove how powerful *God* is and how perfect His *plan* is. If everyone *would repent*—the world *would change* in a moment of time.

Repentance is turning and going in the *other* direction. When we truly forsake our *self*-plan and really follow *God's divine*-plan of trust, we are *in step* with the Spirit. Repenting is the *removing* of *rebellion* and the *receiving* of an attitude of obedient *trust* on God.

Satan will oppose our decision to leave his way and do everything possible to convince us we made a mistake. He wants us back and says we will

never have those *things* we want; the *car* we desire; the *clothes*; the *friends*; or the *fun* the world has. All we *really want* we won't have, he says.

As in *Noah's* day, most are *still* doing in *this* day Luke 17:27 “*They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage*”—just trying to find happiness, but *without* God. As it happened in *that* time, it will happen the *next* time—if there is no repentance; no forsaking sins; and no submitting to God. The *world* followed the *devil*—“*Until the day that Noe entered into ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.*”

The world has failed to find happiness, peace, or security—but the *worst* is yet to come. The horrible suffering in Hell is the dreadful fate of anyone who will *not* start right; *not* grow in faith; and *not* allow God to deliver them from the rebellious nature that will *not* forgive anyone of anything and will *not* trust God to avenge their injustices. John 15:2 “*Every branch in me not bearing fruit, He doth take it away.*”

The foundation *cause* of sin is the *control* of the sin *nature*—an attitude that does *not* want anything to do with God. When we *know* of that *root cause* of sin, we can take *corrective measures*, and move *forward* in faith—John 15:2b “*Every one bearing fruit, He doth cleanse by pruning it, that it may bear more fruit.*”

As we allow God to cut away those wrong *attitudes*, it will be easy to meet people right and respond to wrongs scripturally. We then move *forward* spiritually—“*Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful,*” John 15:2.

We are so fortunate to *have* this information, because the *importance* of repenting; confessing; and forsaking sins; and *then* being *committed* to do the will of God cannot be over-emphasized. 1 John 1:9 “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

Making a *new start* with a *new attitude* is the greatest of privileges. 1 John 2:1-2 “*If any one sins, we have an Advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*”

No matter how *bad* our attitude *was* or how *serious* our sins *were*, God forgives all of them when we truly repent of them! Mark 3:28 “*Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme.*”

No matter what *situation* we are *confronting*; no matter what *trial* we are *facing*, if we are willing to *repent*, God is ready to *forgive*—and *give* us a new attitude. Only He can *remove rebellious* attitudes and convert them to *trusting attitudes*—but we have to *want* Him to do that spiritual work.

Wrong *attitudes* lead in the wrong *direction*—then to a really wrong *destination*. Matthew 18:3 “*Except ye be converted, and become as little children*”—which is totally *committing* our life to God and following His Word, Heaven is *not* possible. This commitment is *first* on the list in the conversion process. We need to make a *new start* with a *new attitude*—one that is trusting *God* “*always!*”

John 17:3 “*This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*” One *requirement* is one *condition* we all must meet John 6:29 “*That ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*”

2023 is a *New Year* with *new start* and a *new attitude*—and it has *eternal rewards!*



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