

# TAKING A RIGHT ATTITUDE

S107A 0625 23P

Taking a right attitude is very important, one that we will learn under God's teaching-- an attitude that is extremely valuable. This attitude is one that we learn under God's teaching and workmanship, and it will enable us to deal successfully with God.

There couldn't be anything more valuable, as far as our personal relations with God are concerned, than to be able to deal successfully with Him. That is a lost art in the so-called Christian world. They do not know anything about it, and they don't know the first condition.

For you and I to be taught and worked upon, by God's teaching and workmanship; to be able to deal with God successfully, is valuable indeed. But there is something more valuable than that-- and that is, every time we deal with God successfully, we receive a spiritual growth and development that is of greater value, if possible, than that which we receive in answer to prayer. We also receive a new knowledge of God, and a real step forward in our preparation, for Eternal Life.

The natural man, in his attitude to God, is just opposite to what he ought to be--there couldn't be anything more opposite. He values God, and places God--if he places Him at all--as of no value, and not giving Him a moment's consideration.

That is an awful place for anybody to be in--and he cannot help it. That is the result of the devil's control, and self. He does not think about God being so good. He would not value God as very much and His Son, Jesus Christ the same--He is no value to him, at all. Fallen man always puts himself up on a pedestal, heady and high-minded. And he always puts God down very low.

No one could possibly deal with God with such a combination. He cannot help it. It is just as real to him--that God is of no account at all, as it is that He

is "the great I am"--which is the fruit of having those two deadly enemies living in them. Under God's teaching we find out and become entirely different. We take our place down low, and we exalt God--and place Him where He belongs.

Anyone that ever-allowed God to teach them and work in them, to that extent they were always successful in their dealings with God. They had no trouble dealing with Him, and to be successful. From that, you can see the value of having such a Teacher, of getting such results and to be taught such valuable Truths.

There is an old saying, that if the natural man (in his natural state) was asked to put in writing, his ideas of God (what he thought God was like) --when he got through, you would have to turn it entirely around, to get any true idea of what God really was. And he could not write anything else--does not know anything else. He would put himself away up--and God away down.

Remember Job's case. He put himself right up at the top of the ladder. He never did anything wrong. He was a perfect man, and he was number ONE. In the course of his conversation, he revealed his idea of God--that God was not very good. He accused God of destroying his family, destroying his property, and destroying his health, for no reason at all.

Anyone that gave a description of how God treated him, that Job did--you couldn't come to any conclusion but that he had a God that was unreasonable--and we had a friend, Job, that was an angel on earth--righteous, never did any wrong, never had any wrong about him, in any way whatever.

He had three friends come and try to straighten him out. He convinced each one of them, that he was all right, and God was all wrong. But Elihu came and gave him the truth and yet poor Job was in the same place when Elihu got done, as he was when he began.

But when God started to teach him, it did not take long for God to say to him and teach him what he taught him and when God got through, Job had entirely changed. And his attitude changed--and he

had an entirely different combination. He said, "I have heard about you with the hearing of the ear."

That's some deliverance. He found out what kind of God he had. Then he said--"but now mine eye seeth thee"--I have found out just what kind of God you are--just opposite of what I thought. When he saw what kind of God he had--he saw what kind of article he was. What a tumble he took.

Instead of him being all right and God being all wrong; God was all right and he was all wrong. He just reversed it. That was the combination that brought the victory, He didn't have to pray for himself when he said--"wherefore, I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." All God asked him to do was to pray for his friends, for God to have mercy on them, for their false teaching.

They set themselves up to be teachers and didn't know what they were talking about. When Job prayed for them, God turned his captivity, and gave him twice as much as he ever had before.

Notice how that all turned out. When he got under God's teaching, and took a right attitude, he saw God as He was...No trouble to get victory...No trouble to deal with God...No trouble to be delivered. That is one of the valuable things in having God as our teacher. It was the same all through the Bible.

You will notice when Moses was sent to Pharaoh. He said to him--"thus saith Jehovah, 'let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness'" Pharaoh had the bad combination that he was the big "I Am," and God was nothing. He said--"I don't know Jehovah, neither will I let His people go. You just want an excuse to stop working. Get back to work"--and he piled more work on them.

But before Moses was through, and before God was through, Pharaoh was mighty glad to let them go. But he never found out who Jehovah was (and what a wonderful one Jehovah is) and never found out what a failure he was--until the Red Sea came back in full force and drowned him and sent him to the Lake of Fire.

Then he knew who Jehovah was--but it was too late, he certainly found out Jehovah had a power that

he never dreamed of. Just as Job's case ended in a great deliverance, and great happiness--Pharaoh's case ended in destruction and the Lake of Fire forever. He never got acquainted with Jehovah, in this life.

And our Life Eternal depends upon it. Jesus said, "and this is Life Eternal, that they might know thee as the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." That's the combination that brings Eternal Life.

Take the two thieves on the Cross. One of them had been taught by God and was susceptible to the Holy Spirit's work. The other one still held on to his control by the devil. They were just opposite in their attitude. One went straight to Heaven, the other straight to the Lake of Fire forever.

Just think of that. How valuable the teaching of God is--that enables you to give God His place, and we to take our place. One of those thieves made a very insulting remark to Jesus Christ--a great reflection on His claims to be the Son of God. He said--"if you are the Son of God, save yourself and us." He meant--"if you were the Son of God, you would save us--and because you don't save us, it is because you are not the Son of God."

The other thief, being taught by God, took his place, and gave Jesus Christ His place. He spoke to that thief and said--"dost thou not fear God?"--meaning, you are right in the jaws of death and yet--you haven't the least sign of repentance--or the least spiritual light, just at the time when you need it most?

"Dost thou not fear God?" (What a question.) "Seeing that we are in the same condemnation--and we indeed justly." Now he was getting down to business. "We are suffering the due reward of our deeds!"

That was taking his place and he gave Christ His place--"but this man has done nothing amiss." He had no trouble to deal with God after that. "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy Kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "In most solemn truth I tell you, this day thou shalt be with me in Paradise." See where the right combination meant Heaven for one--and a wrong combination meant, the Lake of Fire for the other. One listened to the teaching of the

Holy Spirit. The other one held on to the teaching of the devil.

The devil is the only one who belittles God and exalts self. He is the one that makes the bad combination. When the Holy Spirit ever gets hold of anybody and if He ever gets any teaching into their minds and ears--they will take their place and give God His place.

Remember John the Baptist. He was filled with the Holy Spirit from his birth. Jesus said about him, "of all men born of a woman in the world, there's none greater than John the Baptist."

That is quite a testimony from Jesus Christ. But listen to the combination John had. He said, when they questioned him about who he was, he said, "there's One standing in your midst, whom you do not know (meaning the Christ) whose shoe latchet I am not worthy (or fit) to unloose." That's what the Holy Spirit will do--cause you to take your place and give God His. John the Baptist always did it. When they questioned him later on in his ministry, he said, "He must increase, I must decrease"--which was a fact, and it turned out that way.

Take the case of Mary Magdalene. She was the one from whom Jesus cast out seven devils--and a notorious sinner. But Jesus cast the evil spirits out of her, and took possession of her, by His Holy Spirit. And she was one of the first ones at the tomb, after he was crucified? Her greatest desire was to find Jesus Christ, even his dead body--she was so infatuated with Him and valued Him so highly.

When she was asked what she was looking for, she said, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know what they have done with him." She was inconsolable, because she couldn't be with Jesus Christ--she had found out how valuable He was.

But the climax of all the devil's control (and under the profession of religion) happened at the crucifixion of Christ. They didn't value Christ at all. They were utterly unable to give Him His place, in any sense or way at all--and they were supposed to be religious people.

They counted Jesus Christ a faker, and a criminal. The only thing to fit His case was to hang Him on a cross--let Him hang in agony for six hours. That was the result of being taught and led by the devil--the professed children of God. That was a great exposure of what the natural heart, and the condition of the natural man is--and especially, the cloak of a false religion.

Peter told them, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Acts, "you chose a murderer, when Pilate wanted to release the Christ. But the Christ--you murdered Him."--That was the greatest exposure that could possibly be.

As a happy and a positive result of being taught by God, and led by the Spirit--we have Paul's testimony in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Philippians. It was a mountain-peak of truth, of divine wisdom, and of divine valuation. He said, "for the Christ I have suffered the loss of all things." Then he put the valuation on them, in comparison to the Christ--he "counted them but dung."

There is the result of real teaching by God. Paul's friends--those he had in the flesh, the honor, the position, and everything else--all that he had before he was in the Truth, which would include money and position--he said, he lost them all.

Wasn't that a healthy statement? There's genuine religion. There are the real goods. No wonder he could say, when his life was at the end--"I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith--henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness!" He was dead--sure of Eternal Life.

Now, Paul never suffered any real harm. And everything that happened to him, "worked together for good!" But just get the idea of his valuation of Jesus Christ, and the place he put Him--and the place he took. No wonder he had a successful Christian life, and no wonder he was so sure of Eternal Life.



[www.fcgchurch.org](http://www.fcgchurch.org)

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

[info@fcgchurch.org](mailto:info@fcgchurch.org) S107A 0625 23P