

A New Attitude is So Needed!



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We began life with an attitude that is not acceptable to God, so a new attitude is needed! Our attitude is vitally *important* because it indicates the spiritual *condition* in our heart. If we cannot meet difficult circumstances in a scriptural way—according to the Word—then serious *changes* are in order and *must* take place—repenting and asking God for His Holy Spirit.

There is a *right* way and a *wrong* way; a *scriptural* reaction and an *unscriptural* reaction; the *Lord's* way and the *world's* way to respond to *offenses*, *wrongs*, and *difficulties*. God has a way, and *Satan* has a way—and they are *opposite*—but so are their destinations. God wants to *remove* the *rebellious* nature and help us meet things in a *scriptural* way by the *divine* nature. The world wants us to *retain* a rebellious nature and have us meet things in an *unscriptural* way by the *sin* nature.

God must be allowed to *convert* our heart to the *new way* with a *new attitude* by the *divine* nature. *Blessings* enjoyed come from meeting things like a *believer*; and the *problems* we encounter are from meeting things as an *unbeliever*. The key is having the *Holy Spirit* to control our responses

because the *devil* wants to be in control of us. A fruit of the Spirit is Galatians 5:23 “*Self-restraint.*”

Eternal life is connected to meeting things as God's Word *says* to meet them because having a right attitude by trusting God in faith is the only *true* faith. We are to trust God for *His* help to be *able* to meet things in a scriptural way—no matter *what* the situation is or *who* it is from. Philippians 4:9 “*Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do.*”

Active faith is *real* faith. Hebrews 12:7-8 “*Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.*”

God has His plan for meeting *everything*—leading to blessings, spiritual fruit, and eternal life—as we keep our faith on the Atonement of Christ through the difficult situation. Hebrews 12:10-11 “*God indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*” We are *trained* if we *meet* the test according to the *Word*.

2 Corinthians 7:10 “*For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, a repentance not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world finally produces death.*” Every trial must be met as the Word says—this keeps us in *training*. Hebrews 12:14 “*Persistently strive for peace with all men, and for that growth in holiness apart from which no one will see the Lord.*”

Every *difficulty* must be met in a *scriptural* way because we *will* meet with many *types* to test our *faith*—and to reveal *where*, or *on whom*, our trust is placed. James 1:12 “*Blessed is he who patiently endures trials; for when he has stood the test, he will gain the victor's crown—*

even the crown of Life—which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” All promises of God are “*Yes*” when our *faith* remains in *Christ* 2 Corinthians 1:20.

When we *endure* through trials in God's *strength*, and we meet them according to His *Word*, we are being *trained*. Abraham was tested to reveal if there was any *compromise* in his heart. This *spiritual training* can take time, but there is to be a *beginning*, a *progressing*, and a *conforming* “*To the image of his Son*” Romans 8:29. When we meet trials correctly and learn to *respond* as God's Word says to respond, we are promised the *victor's crown*—God's eternal kingdom.

Bible *examples* show right *responses*—After leaving Egypt, Israel came to the Promised Land, and God wanted them to go in—by faith. Most of them looked at the giants, considered their defense, and saw the difficulties, so they refused to proceed. Hebrews 11:9 “*By faith [Abraham] made his home in the promised land,*” but the Israelites were *not willing* to go in *by faith* and in trust on God for their protection.

Caleb said Numbers 13:30 “*We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it*”—by faith and in God's strength—he meant. Joshua and Caleb told the Israelites Numbers 14:9 “*Do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us.*”

God was not pleased with the *rebellion* of the people—or with *any* rebellion. God said Numbers 14:11: “*How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?*” Moses prayed for mercy due to the *attitude* of the Israelites. Numbers 14:18 “*The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty.*”

Not one of those who *rebelled* would see the Promised Land, God said, ²⁴ “*But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land.*” The result of the others *not* meeting this in a scriptural way was that all over twenty years of age perished in unbelief and ended in the flames forever.

King Saul had tough things to meet, but when the pressure increased, he made his own way. The king had the Spirit of God early on and was given the gift of prophecy, so he *should* have been able to meet things right—but he failed to meet them scripturally—and lost eternal life. God, however, will save anyone who truly *loves* Him; who will meet things as He *says*; and who will *endure* in faith through every trial.

David was stalked by King Saul—his life was in constant danger, but when David decided to meet this in God’s way, he was delivered from persecution and given the kingdom. David was going *forward* spiritually when he met things right; but he went *backward* spiritually when he did *not*.

David yielded to temptation and sinned against Uriah—resulting in serious losses. Major trouble took place in his home when he failed to meet this in a scriptural way. The kingdom was taken from him and he had to flee for his life.

His children committed serious sins; one son murdered his brother; and that son was later killed—all resulting from a wrong attitude and not meeting tough situations right. When David repented, returned to God and met things right, his kingdom was restored and blessings enjoyed.

Joseph also met with tough situations—ten brothers had it in for him and plotted his murder. He was sold as a slave and employed by a man whose wife seriously tempted him. Joseph responded correctly—he *fled* the temptation; he did not defend himself against her false accusations,

he never mentioned his brothers, and he never complained about being shown no consideration.

The woman’s lie landed him in prison—and he did *not* meet *that* difficulty right. He tried to get out of prison by human means. It was one thing he was *not* willing to meet scripturally, and it took two years to learn how he *should* have met it. God was *teaching* him how to *trust* Him, so after two years in prison, Joseph realized his mistake and gave the matter over to God. Joseph was then promoted to prime minister of Egypt—God’s ways *always* turn out that way!

When *we* experience tough situations, there is some spiritual *lesson* to learn and a *faith* in God to maintain. Every difficulty *is met* to reveal hidden *rebellion* or *self-trust* in our heart. It took Joseph two years before he recognized the problem. When he gave the matter to God, spiritual fruit resulted. It does *not have* to take *two years*—but *two minutes*!

If there *is* rebellion in *our* heart, God will reveal it—we just have to *listen* to Him and *learn* from the lesson. Our goal is to go into eternity with *rebellion removed* from our heart and the *love of God* in its place. The *sin* nature must *die* in us, so the *divine* nature can *live* in us.

John 12:24-25 “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal*”—what a reward *that* is!

If we *hold on to* the ways of the world, we will *forfeit* our soul to the devil—but if we *let go of* rebellion and *hold on to* faith in God, we will *keep* our soul forever. Hebrews 12:1-2 “*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses—[Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, and others], let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily*

ensnares [beset] us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”

Christ-like responses indicate the Spirit of Christ abiding within. Meeting rude, insulting, and offensive things scripturally is so important. Philippians 2:5 “*Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.*” He “*Made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant*” ⁷. We are to have a servant-attitude of humility before God.

No matter what trial is met or test encountered, we are to respond as God says to respond—asking Him to help us meet it right Philippians 4:13. Jesus obeyed and went to the Cross Philippians 2:9 “*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

Every wrong; every offense; every injustice and unfair treatment toward us; toward our children or a family member, is a very valuable opportunity for us to *meet* it as God *says* to meet it. If we *will*, spiritual *growth* will result—directing our path toward Heaven.

We *have* to make a decision to *leave* the way of the world and go with the way of the Spirit—trusting God by faith through the Blood of Christ. Luke 9:62 “*Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.*” Meeting *trials* right indicates that our *faith* in Christ and our *trust* on God is right! The Kingdom is *promised* to those who *do*.



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