

ATTITUDE

By Don Krider

Many Christians today need an attitude change. How do you change your attitude? You change your altitude. You get the right altitude in Christ and your attitude changes. When you are flying too close to your problem, you get a bad attitude. When you are flying around with people who have critical spirits, you get a bad attitude. You need to get higher in Christ. You need to begin to rise up.

One time I said to the Lord, "Lord, I would like to be better than I am," and God gave me a thought. He said, "The deader the better." So what God wants is the people who have died to self, come alive to Christ, and are no longer looking at situations the way they have, but having a right attitude at all times. Once in awhile we get that right attitude. Somebody blesses us, somebody gives us something and then we have a joyful attitude. But how about somebody like Job? He lost everything, yet the Bible says he praised and worshipped God, and in all of this he sinned not against God (**Job chap.1**). We find his wife saying, "*Why don't you just curse God and die.*" He said, "*You speak as a foolish woman speaks. Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and not receive evil?*"(**Job 2:9-10**).

You see, when you have the right attitude the devil never gets into your conversation. When you have the right attitude, no matter what is happening in your life, no matter what is falling apart, no matter what is being loosed against you, you say, "*Blessed be the name of the Lord, for all things work together for good to them who love the Lord and are the called according to His purpose*" (**Romans 8:28**).

Job was one of the most tested men in the Bible, but his testimony was, "*The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken it away.*" The Lord gave. The devil did not have anything to do with it. The church needs to have a positive attitude about everything we do; and no matter how we look at a situation, no matter how things come against us, we need to have the right attitude.

David was another of the most tested men in the Bible, yet he said in **Psalm 122:1**: "*I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.*" That was his attitude. It wasn't, "Well, it's my obligation; it's another service night. What will people think about me if I don't show up? I'll just go down there and mumble my way through it."

Sometimes our attitude is like that, and then we say, "I don't know why I didn't get blessed down there at the church. Man, that person next to me got blessed." A person's attitude is affected by other people, by things, by seasons, by blessings or by whatever is going on. Their attitude is changed and affected, but the Christian was meant to walk in a steady, steadfast life.

So David said, "I wasn't unhappy. I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." That's not the attitude of a lot of the Church though. Some do not have an attitude of being glad to come to the house of the Lord.

The word "attitude" is a great word. It means a 'state of mind', or a 'feeling', or 'an action'. You can tell in individual pastors their attitude by the way they live; the action they take when things happen against them. You see, Job took an action of giving God glory. When things went wrong with him you could tell where his attitude was; he gave God glory for it. When he was tempted to curse God and die, what did he do? He put forth an action of glorifying God.

God is the author of my life. God is the one that blesses me. God is the one that decides to take from me what He wants to. Is it not right to be blessed of God and also receive evil from God? How do I know the balance in God? You see, your attitude is not something you can hide. When you are cursed, are you blessed? If you have the right attitude you do.

A lot of us are in church, but our mind is in another state. God wants us to realize that our life needs to line up. Paul said, "*The life that I now live in the flesh* (the action that is going on in my life) *I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me*" (**Gal 2:20**). His action portrayed the state of mind that he was in. He was going to glorify God in that prison cell. It didn't make any difference whether he and Silas were beaten up; it made no difference while they were locked in those stocks. They raised their hands and began to praise and bless the Lord because they had the right attitude (**Acts 16:16-26**).

When they looked at a situation they didn't say, "Poor little us, why is this happening to us?" That's the wrong attitude. You can't have that attitude and then say **Romans 8:28** is true. Either all things work together for good or none of them do. You can't be selective about what works good for you, because sometimes the thing you think is working good for you is turning you upside down and backwards. What you think is working against you is working for your good.

"Why don't people appreciate me?" Because you need an attitude adjustment. Do you bless those who curse you? How about those who spitefully use you? What is your attitude towards it? What's your action; that's your attitude. What you do is really your attitude. It's manifested for everybody to see. That's why you can know when people are hypocrites. They say they have one attitude but they do something else. What is really reflected is what their attitude is. It's the action they take.

The church has to live Godly in this present world. Everyone that lives Godly in this present world is going to suffer persecution (**2 Tim 3:12; Titus 2:12**). People aren't automatically going to fall in love with you. People aren't automatically going to approve of your lifestyle. They are going to try to get you to compromise.

David said, "I was glad, not unhappy." He was excited, wasn't he? He was rejoicing. "It's church time, it's church time! Hallelujah, we are going down to church!" I'm telling you, when somebody goes to church like that, they are going to come out blessed all over the place. Why? Because they have an attitude toward God that says that church is where they want to be. That's where their heart is. Others sitting at home might say, "I would have liked to have been there last night." If they would have liked to be there, they would have been there. Our attitude doesn't line up with our mouth.

God is saying we need an attitude adjustment. We need a mind that is stayed upon the Lord. We need a mind that thinks, "Hallelujah, it's church time. I can hardly wait to get there. It's prayer meeting time. I can hardly wait to get there."

Haven't you had days when your circumstances aren't working right; when everything is falling apart; when everything is just coming unglued all around? I've had months like that. 'Days' would have been a vacation.

Look at **Psalm 9:1**: "**I WILL** praise, O Lord, with my whole heart; **I WILL** shew forth all thy marvellous works." Underline "**I WILL**" in your Bible. You see, I'm going to make myself do something here. I'm not going to just talk about praising God. I'm not going to just talk about doing something for God. I'm going to do something. The attitude is going to be reflected in the action I take.

You know, a lot of people sit around criticizing the preacher. They criticize everything in the service. They criticize people all over the place. Then they try to get up and shout the victory and wonder why it's not working. Listen, if you don't like the service, do something about it - change yourself. Don't try to change the preacher.

But here the Lord is saying that David has the key. We need to listen to what David said. He said, "I WILL. I don't care how it feels. I don't care what it looks like. I don't care what it sounds like. I've made up my mind. I've got the right attitude here. I will praise thee O Lord. With my whole heart I will show forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee. I will sing praise to Thy Name, O Thou most High." David has an attitude here. He says, "I don't care what is going on, I've made up my mind."

How about Habakkuk. In **Habakkuk 2:17-19** he says: "*Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I WILL rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.*" He had a right attitude.

It doesn't make any difference what is going on, if that affects your attitude you have a wrong attitude. If, when things are going what you call 'backwards', and it affects you, you have a wrong attitude. You need to have an attitude where you take charge of your life and say, "I WILL bless God in this situation. I WILL praise the Lord. I am determined and the attitude of my life is going to show it." When you are in a tight place, it really shows what kind of attitude you have.

It was easy for Paul and Silas to shout the victory when that little gal was delivered of the demonic presence (Acts 16:16-18). That would have been a real campaign, wouldn't it? You would want to write that on the billboard and put in your next tent meeting. That would have drawn a crowd. But that wasn't where the real joy came; I believe they were happy for her. But when they were in that jail and there was strife, and their feet were in stocks, the real attitude came forth. The real attitude of their life came forth. They began to praise God and they began to pray.

When your attitude is right, God is going to bless your socks off. When you have a heart that is right with God and you're not complaining, grumbling, and griping about the situation, you can say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen! I will praise Him, I will bless Him, I will rejoice in Him." It doesn't make any difference what is going on, it doesn't make any difference whether it looks right or sounds right, that's not our business. Our business is to have a right attitude with God regardless of what is going on and let the Holy Spirit of God move through us and bless the Lord O my soul.

David takes control of his life, doesn't he? In **Psalm 32:5,11** he talks to his soul. He said, "*O, my soul, why art thou cast down within me? Hope thou in God.*" Things weren't going very well with David. Was his answer to get down in the mulleygrubs? NO! His answer was to talk to himself, to get it lined up. He began to talk to himself and he said, "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me*" (**Psalm 103:1**).

You see, your problem isn't better preachers. Your problem isn't better circumstances. Your problem isn't better conditions. Your problem is an attitude change. You can't have a very good attitude living in the basement of life all the time. All you can see is cigarette butts, feet going by, dust and dirt, dirty old wrapper papers, and junky needles. You never see much out of the basement, so you think everything is like that. But if you go up on the top of that same building that is thirty-five stories high, you can hardly see anything on the ground floor except a few people moving around; then you get a better attitude.

We have to move up out of the basement of this thing. Murmuring, complaining, grumbling, and griping put you in the basement. Some people live so far down they can't even reach up and touch the bottom. I mean, that's their attitude. "Nothing good ever happens to me; nothing good ever will happen to me. Everything is always against me. If I were like Brother So-and-so, I would have it made. Woe is me!"

They don't need to be like someone else; they need to be like Jesus. Jesus had the right attitude all the way through His life. When Satan would come against him, He would say, "It is written." How do you like that! He didn't get upset. He didn't run around trying to get someone to come pray for Him.

You see, things really change when you have a right attitude. I don't mean your trouble ceases, but it becomes opportunities. I don't mean that people are going to quit talking about you, but it gives you more opportunity to praise the Lord. I want to see people who have an attitude that is right with God, instead of scraping them up off the ground all the time. "But Brother, you don't understand. You've never been where I have been; you've never done what I've done. It's bad."

Another thing about a bad attitude is that you never forgive yourself either. You are always living in the past. "God can't bless me because I did this or I did that." But God says, "Wait a minute! I've forgiven you everything. You've asked me, and I've forgiven you. Get a right attitude. You're free now. Rejoice in Me, praise Me, give Me the glory and the honor that is due Me. I have set you free. I've broken every shackle off of you. I've taken off the handcuffs. I don't even know where they are anymore." The right attitude is accepting forgiveness from God; believe that God meant it when He said it. The right attitude brings me into heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

A bad attitude is that it's always somebody else's fault; it's somebody else's responsibility. That's a bad attitude. That's why we end up where we are, because we make bad attitude choices. I can't go back and change anything I have done, but I can sure ask forgiveness for it. I believe that when I ask forgiveness for it, I have been forgiven.

Somebody said, "Brother Krider, you just don't understand." Yeah, I do. It's like saying, "Well, you know, God knows all about it. God understands everything." I said, "Yeah, God knows all about it, God understands it, but does He approve of it."

The bottom line isn't whether He knows about it or understands about it, but does He approve of it? Does He approve of my murmuring, complaining, grumbling and griping? Does He approve of my complaining, my judgmental thinking? No! What brought me there? It was the guy that murmured and complained against me so I had to get even. Right? No! I had the wrong attitude. I was living in the gutter when I should have been in heavenly places. I was operating in the carnal mind when I should have operated in the mind of Christ. I should have had the right state of mind.

When I have the right state of mind you can tell it. Ask your husband or your wife; nobody else may be able to tell it for a while. It doesn't take long to find out though. You may smile at everybody but be mean as the devil at home. Your life is up and down, in and out, topsy-turvy, and you know why. It's because you have a wrong attitude. Do you know who my problem is? It's me! It's how I act towards things; it's how I act towards people.

God is saying, "Listen, your attitude is your state of mind." It's the action you take. It means that I have to take responsibility for my own state of mind, doesn't it? "Well, the government didn't give me enough money this week. They just don't appreciate me down at the church. I don't get to sing very often."

All kinds of things come up and sound right to justify the state of mind we get in; but Jesus never got into that wrong state of mind. They crucified Him, they beat Him, they whipped Him, they scourged Him, they plucked out His beard; but the last words of His life were, "Forgive them." You have to have a right attitude to forgive those that persecute you. You have to have a right attitude to forgive those that are killing you. If somebody says something bad about us, what kind of a mind do we develop? I've seen churches split over somebody saying something. It wasn't what that individual said; it was the state of mind that the other individual was in.

"I don't like the way she sings. I'm going to start my own church. We won't have any music in it, so we won't have problems with the music department. I don't like the way the Pastor preaches, so I am going to start a church where there isn't going to be any preaching either. We are just going to come in here like a bunch of bumps on a log and sit here. But I don't like the way that brother sits, so we are going to lay on the floor."

That's about as silly as it comes, but that is just the way many Christians act in their life because they don't have a right attitude. They won't accept responsibility for their actions and deal with it. They won't accept responsibility for what they have said or what they have done, and they blame everybody else. **Isaiah 58:9** says, "*Put away the pointing of fingers.*"

It's been like that down through the ages of time, hasn't it? Eve had a bad attitude. When God brought her over to Adam, he said, "Wow! This is it! Wow! This is great! Best looking woman I ever saw." Of course, it's the only one he ever saw. I want to tell you something, she had a bad attitude. She started listening to Satan. That's what a bad attitude does.

Do you know what happens when you start listening to Satan? It gets worse; it doesn't get better. And he'll justify you for doing what you are doing and make it sound right. He'll tell you that God's a meany and He

doesn't want you to have any fun. Or He didn't really mean it when He said not to eat that fruit. When somebody tells me that I say, "so long, good-bye; I'm out of here."

God means what He says. That's why people get in trouble when they start arguing with God. "Does God's word really mean this"? That spirit hasn't died; that little devil is still running around. "That word doesn't mean what it says; it means something else." I say "Well, I'll tell you, until I can get the enlightenment on it, I'm going to stick to what is written here." But when you have a wrong attitude, you are going to listen to the wrong voice and you are going to make the wrong choice.

It wasn't long until Adam's attitude deteriorated. I don't know what was going on in Adam's mind; I really don't know. I don't even know what was going on in Eve's mind. But I do know that the snake was doing exactly what he purposed to do. So Adam takes of it and right away they start covering up. You see, that's what happens. We start establishing our own righteousness when our attitude is wrong.

"Adam! Where are you, Adam! I've come to visit you." "We are hiding." "Why are you hiding?" "Because we are naked." "How did you know that? What are you doing over here, anyhow? What in the world is going on?" I can see him shrugging his shoulders and saying: "Ah-h-h-h! The woman you gave me... I thought anything that came from God had to be perfect." I love the woman's answer: "It wasn't my fault; it was the snake." And the snake goes, "Ha, it's just my job."

Satan can't score a point on you as long as you keep a right attitude. You can't help but win people to Christ with a right attitude. You can't help but bring glory to God with a right attitude, even when things are going wrong. You predetermine in your heart, "I will bless the Lord. I will rejoice. I will sing unto the God of my salvation. I will dance unto the Lord with all my might, with all of my strength. I will magnify the Lord with all that is within me." That's the right attitude.

It isn't getting smarter. It isn't getting to a place where you can quote a lot of Bible scripture. It's living what you already know. My Bible tells me not to murmur and complain, grumble or gripe, but I start listening to somebody who said it's O.K. They say I'm under grace now. Wrong attitude. It won't be long until I will be hiding in the bushes, trying to establish my own righteousness, blaming somebody else.

Do you need an attitude adjustment? Every once in a while my attitude gets out of whack and I have to readjust it. Did you ever grumble and the Holy Spirit said, "What are you doing? I'm going to give you a little attitude adjustment. We are going down to the bushes and then we are going through the fiery furnace; then we're going through the Red Sea and I'm going to let the lions nibble on you a little bit to help your attitude adjustment." Joseph was probably one of the greatest men in the Bible. He had his coat ripped off of him. He's robbed by his own brothers; he's thrown into a pit by his own brothers; and he's sold into slavery by his brothers. Now that ought to give you a bad attitude; that's a bad day. I mean, it isn't a stranger that threw you in the pit. It isn't a stranger that takes your coat. It isn't a stranger that sells you into bondage. It's what the Lord said, wasn't it, "I was wounded in the house of my friends. If it had been a stranger, I could have stood it, but I was wounded in the house of my friends" (**Zech 13:1,6-9**).

Joseph doesn't rail out accusations against his brothers. He just goes on with whatever God has for him, so he ends up in Potiphar's house (**Genesis chap.39**). He's got a pretty good job. He's taking care of the household, but there's another one of those women in there who has a bad attitude. Just about the time that

things are really going right, that's when somebody comes along with a bad attitude. "What are you doing, big boy. You in charge around here?" "Yeah, I'm in charge. My master gave me everything except you." "Well, he's gone." "God didn't really mean what He said. Who's going to know?" Bad attitude.

I like this man's integrity. He stands by his commitment; loses his robe; she jerks it right off of him. They find him and throw him in prison. He doesn't ask for a stay of execution. He doesn't ask for an ACLU lawyer. He doesn't ask for somebody to come down to buy him out. He said, "Bless God, this is where I'm supposed to be. I'm going to learn something." They put him in charge of the prison.

You know, cream just rises to the top, no matter how much you shake the jug. Christians just rise to the top when they have a right attitude. The more you shake them, the more they rise; if you shake them hard enough they become butter.

In **Chap.40** Joseph's in prison; he's top dog again. He goes out and begins to interpret dreams. He tells the butler and the baker the interpretation of their dreams. Then He said to the butler, "Now when you are called, remember to tell them I am in here."

Don't ever count on it. It's a bad attitude when you start leaning on flesh. Bad attitude when you start trusting in flesh. The baker lost his head, so he knew he wouldn't remember it. But the butler was brought back to his position. Joseph surely thought, "Well, I'm out of here in a few days."

Two years later the King had a dream and nobody could interpret it (**Chap.41**). Then the butler said, "Hey, I remember down in the old cell block, there was a guy named Joseph down there. He's the one that told me that you would restore my job to me." "Well, go fetch him." If had been us, when that guy came down we would have bit his ear off. But Joseph kept a right attitude and they took him out of jail. He interpreted the dream and the King said "You are in second command now, over all the storehouses, all the goods."

If you keep a right attitude there will come a day when God will justify you. God will never justify the individual with the wrong attitude, but Joseph was honored. He became the salvation of his brothers and all his family, and he revealed himself to them, didn't he. In **Gen 50:20** he said, "*But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*" The right attitude is important. When you fall off and begin to have a wrong attitude, take responsibility for it. Look in that mirror, and say. "It isn't my boyfriend, my girlfriend, my job, or anything else that is giving me this bad attitude. Man (or woman), it's you, and I'm going to take care of you right now. I will bless the Lord; I will praise the Lord. I'm going to sing unto God until this bad attitude becomes a right attitude. If I have to dance all night, I'll dance all night. If I have to praise all night, I'm going to praise all night. I don't like a bad attitude."

I want to have the right attitude because I looked to the word of God and studied the word of God and saw where men who had the right attitude were winners. But people who murmured and complained and grumbled and griped were cut off from the very presence of God. Some of them were cut off suddenly and that without remedy. They were all going to check out.

Let me say this, we are all going to check out one day. I hope I don't go 120 miles an hour unless I am flying in the Spirit. What I would like to do is to be preaching, going 90 miles an hour for Jesus, leave this body, and my body still be here preaching five minutes after I'm gone. That's how I would like to go.

It is quite evident that everyone, regardless of your station in life, wealthy, poor, whatever your station is, we will check out of this thing. We don't know what time. At 120 miles an hour you don't have a whole lot of time to say much except, "A-h-h-h!" How would you like to leave this old world and face the Lord with a bad attitude? How would you like to leave this world and face the Lord talking wicked about somebody or blaming them for your failure, or blaming them for what's happening to your life? I can see the Lord standing there and saying, "Would you mind repeating that." What would you say? "My God and my Lord."

I want to have a right attitude. I want to be flying in the Spirit. I want to be walking in the Spirit. I want to be singing in the Spirit. I want to be praying in the Spirit. God said, "Come up a little higher. Well done, thou good and faithful servant. You didn't make a lot of money, you weren't successful by men's standards, but you did well by my standards. Enter into the rest of the Lord. Enter into the joy of the Lord. You have been faithful over little, I now make you ruler over much."

Do you know what is going to determine that? It's the attitude you take through life that makes you accept the responsibility for what's going on in your life. It's the actions of your life. It's all being written down. I would like God to get a big eraser out and erase some of that stuff. He can do it but you have to repent. You have to admit, "God, I just have a plain, old bad attitude. It's not my wife, it's not my husband, it's not the pastor, it's not anyone else. I've just got a bad attitude, but I want to deal with it; I want to deal with it right now."

Bad attitudes keep you out of victory; bad attitudes keep you out of fellowship with Christ. If you have a bad attitude and you want to change that, I'm going to pray for you. "Father, in the wonderful name of Jesus, the word of God tells us to let a man examine himself to see whether he be in the faith. God, I believe we cannot have a bad attitude and be in the faith. Lord, we are going to walk in the faith, we are going to live in the faith, we are going to rejoice in the faith, we are going to have a right attitude. God, when we are blaming others, it's a wrong attitude. Lord, when we will not take responsibility for our own actions, it's a wrong attitude.

God, these who are praying with me are saying they want to get rid of their bad attitudes right now. We all say, "Lord, check me. Lord, watch over me. Keep me, Lord, and when that bad attitude tries to come again, Lord, let the word of God come into my mind and into my heart. Show me, Father, direct my footsteps, bring me into a place of right attitude, in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus, it is done! Hallelujah!