

January 13, 2013

Having the Attitude of Jesus **Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

We are in the beginning of a new year and it is important that we realize what the Lord is wanting to do in our lives. This is being done through the pastors or shepherds of the local church, as they teach from the Word of God. The importance of attitudes and the words spoken by us is what will enable us to overcome in life. The pastors will know what it is that their people need in different seasons of their lives.

1 Peter 5:2-3 "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock." KJV

Attitude is the most important thing that should be working in our Christian walk, it is a position that we take. This is our position in relationship to other people and to the Lord. Attitude plus power equals performance. We have all the power of the universe available to us; He is living in us by the Holy Spirit. However, wrong attitudes will bring about disaster, there will be no performance. Jesus has set us free. True freedom in Jesus is not letting things get to us, ignoring all the bad things that are said or done against us. True freedom in Jesus is our attitude kept on track.

Col 2:9-10 "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" KJV

Attitude is everything; it will make or break the homes, in the local church, in business. Who is in control of our attitudes? We are, no one else is, we have the choice as to how we handle situations that arise. Attitudes determine the outcome on everything. We are all going to have opportunity to have a bad attitude. Great attitudes open the door for God's favor to be manifested in our lives. Examples of great attitudes in the Bible are: Daniel, Joseph, Esther, Mary and Ruth. Great attitudes also open doors on earth for the favor of men to be extended to you. Bad attitudes will shut the doors.

In the following scriptures, Paul is in prison, however, in this book he continually encourages the people to rejoice and made the statement that he was a prisoner to the Lord Jesus Christ, he would never say that he was a prisoner to circumstances. Even when others forsook him, he was able to maintain a good attitude knowing that it would work for his good.

Phil 2:1-4 "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." KJV

Many times during adversity in our lives, we begin to realize what our priorities are, what is important to us and what is lasting. Adversity will determine priorities. Getting along with others, putting pressure on us will determine what is in our hearts

Phil 2:1-5 *"So by whatever [appeal to you there is in our mutual dwelling in Christ, by whatever] strengthening and consoling and encouraging [our relationship] in Him [affords], by whatever persuasive incentive there is in love, by whatever participation in the [Holy] Spirit [we share], and by whatever depth of affection and compassionate sympathy, 2 Fill up and complete my joy by living in harmony and being of the same mind and one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind and intention. 3 Do nothing from factional motives [through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends] or prompted by conceit and empty arrogance. Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the others as better than and superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves]. 4 Let each of you esteem and look upon and be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others. 5 Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:]" AMP*

Phil 2:1-4 *"If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand." MESSAGE*

God is love and He is mercy and there is communion in the Holy Spirit. If we are really fellowshiping with God and in communion with the Holy Spirit we will be like minded.

Verse 2: Don't be so concerned with yourself but get along with others and maintain a good attitude.

Verse 3: If we are in any kind of leadership, we must be teachable in order for all the things mentioned here to work in our lives. This might be challenging for some, but not a problem for others.

Verse 5: Attitude must be the same in us that was in Jesus. Think the way Jesus thought.

Phil 2:5 *"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had." NLT*

Jesus dealt with all kinds of people, the religious people, having different attitudes, yet He was able to always have a good attitude. Jesus when He came to earth, He came as a man, not as God, He didn't come to be served but rather came to serve, to do God's will, becoming obedient. We must become obedient to having a good attitude, if we are to have the attitude of Jesus working in us; working together with a spirit of harmony for the sake of doing something for the kingdom of God.

Phil 2:6-7 *"Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, 7 But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful*

dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being." AMP

Phil 2:6-8 *"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* KJV

Verse 7: Servant meaning voluntary or involuntary. Jesus didn't come to do His will, but to do the Father's will

Jesus' attitude was to be a servant that was His main purpose in God's plan for Him being here. Because of His attitude and obedience, He was able to make all provision for us, making us overcomers. He knew who He was, yet was willing to become a servant. We have the potential for the ultimate victory because of Jesus humility.

Phil 2:10-14 *"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. 12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:"* KJV

Having the mind of Christ is challenging and having our attitudes like His, is not something that happens overnight, but must come with the renewing of our minds. We must learn to have our attitudes in line with God's plan, making us servants.

Rom 12:1-2 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* KJV

The attitude of Christ is something we grow into day by day. Serving makes us great in the kingdom of God. God exalts those who are in obedience and are humble. Jesus is a perfect example of this; He learned obedience because of the things He suffered. If we want to be exalted, we must learn to serve with faithfulness, no complaining or murmuring.

Phil 2:14 *"Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing."* MESSAGE

When we start acting like unsaved men, we begin to have bad attitudes which cause us to act immature, produce no fruit. We begin to pull away from what has life in it, lukewarm, quit serving. No spiritual growth.

Heb 5:12-14 *"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of*

milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." KJV

1 Cor 3:1-3 *"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"* KJV

We may not be aware that we have a bad attitude, but others will know for sure. Bad attitudes can't be covered up. Hardening of attitudes can be fatal, the life flow, spiritually, becomes restricted. There is no power because of the restriction. How do we correct our attitude, can it be corrected?

We cannot overcome a bad attitude if living in denial, it is like an addiction and cannot be helped in the natural or spiritually. We must admit to God and get His help.

Matt 4:17 *"From that time Jesus began to preach, crying out, Repent (change your mind for the better, heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* AMP

Repentance is not just for salvation and saying we are sorry, but is turning around and going a different direction, this is how our attitude can be changed.

James 4:6 *"But He gives us more and more grace (power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully). That is why He says, God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it)." AMP*

God will give to us power and grace when we get out of denial and humble ourselves to start thinking like Jesus thinks. Having the attitude of Jesus gives us the ability that we need to do that which we cannot do on our own.