



Outer Growth - Attitude

Do all things without murmurings and disputing:

Philippians 2:14

Appearance - Matthew 23:27

Thought - Matthew 6:34

Tone - Job 37:2

information - Jeremiah 17:23

Time - Ecclesiastes 3:8

Uncomfortable: - Isaiah 40:4

Devil - Ephesians 4:27

Eyes - Proverbs 16:2, 21:2, 30:12

What is attitude? The conduct of a person concerning another individual or thing stems from the activity of the mind that expresses an outward action or emotion. What attitude do we have within us? Do we have an overall bad one or a good one?

Attitude is put to the test when it involves some form of disagreement. The problem usually begins from two of our senses, the eyes and ears: what we see and hear.

However, our response will reflect from the heart. A good attitude will make the emotions of a person merry, while a bad one will have a broken spirit that will dry up the inside, as stated in Proverbs seventeen, verse twenty-two. The challenge is to have the ability to handle both, which is not by our strength alone cause we need help from others. For believers, it is aid from the Father, the Mighty God Himself.

An attitude from the godly viewpoint should be without any arguments or fault-finding, which is not easy. Since having a particular way of portraying oneself is generated from the heart,

it applies to the inner strife of the inner being. In either case, it seems mainly to indicate intellectual questioning. Similarly, "murmuring" is used for outward wranglings of discontent. There is nothing like being unsatisfied with the situation around us.

Attitude is about the appearance and activity of a person that determines how their life will be. Cain and Abel are brothers and demonstrate how expression and their profession can create fatal results between relatives and people. Genesis four describes the details of the beginning and ending between them. The attitude and condition of the heart will affect the appearance and how we conduct ourselves before others.

Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain was a farmer. They had an offering to present before God. In verse three of Genesis four, Cain was the eldest, and he first brought fruit to the Lord. Then Abel, in the following verse, brings his best of the flock he had for his offering. God, in verse five, had respect for Abel for his giving, but Cain the Lord did not.

The attitude of Cain may have appeared to change at the end of verse five after the offerings. God already knew because, in verse six, he asks Cain two questions. Why art thou wroth (angry)? And why is thy countenance (appearance usually in the face) fallen? After another question and reasoning with Cain, it seems his attitude causes him to be angry against his brother, which leads to slaying him.

The attitude of a person mainly shows in the face. Most of the public will judge a person based on the expression of the facial features that determine how they will conduct themselves around them. That explains why some famous people appear with dark sunglasses on so the media will not be able to detect something about them by looking at their faces. Today, neighbors at home, workers at work, or kids at school will experience some form of attitude around their environment. Some individuals see and compare visually, which may result in conflict because their attitude towards the person changes based on what they see they have or did.

Attitude has a lot to do with too much thinking. The act of consuming the mind and heart about something or someone. The attempt to want to respond to whatever it is that causes

us to be in deep thought toward the circumstance. The mentation can lead to temptation. Unbelievers could end up in trouble with the law of man, while believers could experience the same problems but mainly the law of God.

Ahab, in First Kings twenty-one, did a lot of thinking. In verse two, he wanted the vineyard of Naboth. Naboth was a Jezreelite in Jezreel, which was near Samaria, where the King lived. However, the answer was no to the request, which made the King very sad. The attitude of Ahab seems to go from happy to upsetting that he would not even eat anything. The change made this noticeable to his wife, Jezebel, in verse five.

The danger of thinking about something or someone can endanger others, but changing the course of life, especially with the attitude, can be dangerous. The manner of Ahab made his wife go from caring to a dictator, which, in verses eight to thirteen, demonstrates how things can change quickly when a different attitude takes over. Jezebel was the wife but turned into a hitwoman. King Ahab did get the vineyard but did not have to pay because Naboth paid by losing his life for owning it. The attitude of the King of Samaria went from being sad to energetic after finding out he could possess the land he was trying to get with money.

The attitude can be through the tone of the voice of a person. Elihu was speaking to Job in chapter thirty-seven about God regarding his situation. The volume is a sensitive area for many people in a conversation because it involves the expression of a speaker. The person on the receiving end of a discussion will look for signs of an attitude that will cause them to raise an argument. The change in tone will involve the pitch level or maybe body language (it all depends on whether the communication is by phone or in person).

At the beginning of chapter eighteen of First Samuel, Saul, the former King of Israel, began to develop hatred for the new one, King David. In verses six to seven, the tone of Saul is evident when he hears the women chanting about how he slew thousands to the ten thousand the son of Jesse did. The expression in verse eight indicates the attitude of Saul in front of those who were there when he spoke.

And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed unto David ten thousand, and to me, they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom?"

An attitude can form from words. We listen to what others say about us, or comments about others can affect our overall behavior. There is an old saying, sticks, and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me."

Chances are, most people recover from their physical injuries than the emotional ones.

Today, people are more sensitive than ever before. A person can get in trouble for saying the wrong thing to another, such as making threats of violence or harassing gestures.

The Pharisees in Matthew of the New Testament were a religious group or party that frequently clashed with Jesus Christ over his interpretation of the Law. They followed the Son of God with an attitude to condemn the practices while fulfilling the will of God, the Father, throughout His ministry. Jesus, in Matthew twelve, verse fourteen, where he heals many, the Pharisee's response to witnessing the good deeds of the Son of God held a meeting on how they might destroy Him. The Pharisees, a religious group, were supposed to be peaceful and holy, yet they were the opposite. Instead of going about doing good, they had an attitude to do evil against the Son of God, who went about doing good.

An attitude toward something or someone can last for a certain period, especially if that thing or person is of great value or effect on their life. Pharaoh found himself in a situation with the Israelites where their leader Moses, the servant of God who grew up in an Egyptian household, came before the King of Egypt to ask him to let the people go. The first response of Pharaoh regarding the request from Exodus five, verse two, "And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go." At the beginning of Exodus, Pharaoh was a new King, as in Exodus one, verse eight. The Israelites built the King of Egypt's treasure cities, described in verse eleven of the same chapter. The people of Israel were about six hundred thousand men, besides women and children, as stated

in chapter twelve, verse thirty-seven in Exodus.

Pharaoh had a long-lasting attitude over this request, although he had a hard heart. The mental outlook of the King possibly grew worse due to knowing that the servant Moses grew up in Egypt, nursed by his daughter in his early years close to his palace, which makes it even more annoying. Then Pharaoh experienced the ten plagues: The waters of the Nile turned into blood, frogs covered the land, the Gnat infestation, the swarm of flies, livestock epidemic, outbreak of boils, violent hailstorms mixed with fire, swarms of locusts, darkness covered the land, and death of the firstborn. During each plague, the attitude of Pharaoh had different mood swings.

The first plague where the water into blood, Pharaoh, in Exodus seven, twenty-two through twenty-three, hardened his heart, turned in and went to his house and said nothing. The plague of frogs came in the second one, and Pharaoh asked Moses to get rid of them and will let the people go, as in verse eight, but when the servant of God did, he hardened his heart in verse fifteen. The swarm of flies was next, and Pharaoh gave Moses an answer but with certain conditions in verse twenty-eight of chapter seven. However, he changed his mind once the flies subsided. Then, the death of the cattle from the Egyptians happened among them, and Pharaoh sent men to investigate while nothing occurred with the Israelite's cattle, and he continued to remain hardened in verse seven of Exodus nine. After that, boils and blains were the sixth plague, and Pharaoh hearkened not to let the Israelites go from Egypt. The next plague was hail and fire. Pharaoh calls for Moses in twenty-seven to twenty-eight but becomes hardened again in verse thirty-five. The eighth plague was the locusts, and Pharaoh calls for Moses and replies in verse eight of Exodus ten with questions.

The ninth plague was darkness. Pharaoh calls Moses for the people to go but on conditional terms in verse twenty-four of Exodus but remains hardened in verse twenty-seven. The tenth and final plague was the Passover, where every firstborn would die in Egypt. Pharaoh was furious in chapter twelve, verses

thirty through thirty-two. The King of Egypt wanted Moses and the Israelites out quickly. The attitude of Pharaoh must have been a nightmare. Dealing with all these plagues, the magicians and astrologers of the King of Egypt could not stop the situation from happening, which may have made him very bitter and resentful of Moses and Aaron. Pharaoh was a King who had dominion over everything in Egypt but could not control the circumstances. The overall experience made his attitude different with each plague in operation. Pharaoh went back and forth by saying yes to letting the people go and then showing what kind of attitude he had during those plagues. An attitude can make us feel uncomfortable. There are times when a situation arises, and instead of choosing the right way, we respond wrongfully. Then, instead of admitting and asking for forgiveness, some individuals decline and decide to handle things their way. Saul, in First Samuel, chapter twenty-eight, meets a woman at Endor. He takes it upon himself to inquire about something the ungodly way.

The attitude of the former King went from bad to worse. Saul's mentor, Samuel, was dead. He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord answered him not as in verse six of the same chapter. Saul became afraid as the Philistines gathered together in Shunem. He inquires about a woman who can contact familiar spirits, which is not right in the sight of God, which causes him to get killed later in battle against his arch-rival, the Philistines.

An attitude begins with being rude. Take heed of everything contrary to truth. No longer flatter or deceive others. God's people are children who will not lie, who dare not lie, who hate and abhor lying. Take heed of anger and ungoverned passions.

If there is just an occasion to express displeasure at what is wrong and to reprove, see that it be without sin. We give place to the devil when the first motions of sin are not grievous to our souls, when we consent to them, and when we repeat an evil deed. It teaches that as sin if yielded unto, lets in the devil upon us, we are to resist it, keeping from all appearance of evil. Idleness makes thieves. Those who will not work expose themselves to temptations to steal.

Men ought to be industrious, that they may do some good, and kept from temptation. They must labor, not only that they may live honestly but that they may have to give to the wants of others. What then must we think of those called Christians, who grow rich by fraud, oppression, and deceitful practices? Alms, to be accepted by God, must not be gained by unrighteousness and robbery but by honesty and industry. God hates robbery for burnt offerings.

Attitude is being righteous from our perspective. The conduct of believing that whatever occurs around us, we know better. Lucifer began to be that way, as though he could exceed God. In Isaiah fourteen, verses thirteen through fourteen, "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." That is why our attitude should not be wrong. Nobody wants to have the character of the devil because he uses that as a vehicle to bring others down to his level.

Attitude can form in many ways. What we see that appears to be significant: what we think seems worth studying. The volume we speak that is worth shouting, rehearsing words in our memory that hurt, wasting time devising mischief to get revenge. The unsettling ways the enemy will use against us to create problems for others begin through our senses. What can change our attitude? The act of gratitude.