



Outer Growth - Attitude 3

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Colossians 3:23

All - Mark 12:30

Temperance - Galatians 5:23

Treatment - Galatians 6:1

Irritate - Hebrews 3:16

Tongue - Psalm 52:2

Unresponsive - 2 Thessalonians 3:2

Devil/Demon - 1 Timothy 4:1

Eyes/Ears - Mark 8:18

Attitude is described as a mental outlook. The public judges the appearance before them. The common phrases constantly used are "I don't like your attitude" or "you have a bad attitude."

In the first edition, we discover: What is attitude? Attitude is our mental outlook. There are two options: The attitude is either good or bad. It could hold us back from how we treat others. In the second edition, the conduct of a person concerning another individual or thing stems from the activity of the mind that expresses an outward action or emotion. However, this final edition is especially for believers and those who desire to have a proper attitude.

Attitude begins with how believers approach God and how people in general approach all. God asks of all those who believe in Christ and receive His salvation is devoted love. This love involves the affection of our hearts whereby God is so valued and esteemed that we long for His friendship, love Him with our obedience, and seek His honor and glory from

earth. If we truly love God, we will not shrink back from public identification with Him even to the point of suffering for His name and for righteousness' sake. Our love for God must be generous, a love inspired by His love for He gave His Son for our sake.

Attitude begins with our neighbor. The requirement for the Children of God is to love all people, which includes our enemies. They are commanded to love all true born-again Christians, especially. Therefore, if our attitude is similar to the student in school, where they smile at those they like and stick their tongue at those they do not like, then we are no different from those who do not serve God. For those who tried to set an example of how to live among their family and environment, actions speak louder than words. Saying something and living differently from what we say will manifest to the public, which cannot be interpreted because people can see our ways. Personality is critical in relation to the public. A preacher once preached a message, and during the lesson, God brought this to his attention. "Many will probably not like what I am about to say right now, but there are many today in the congregation who come in and walk into the sanctuary like angels with a holy walk. However, before that, the past week was walking unholy and behaving like a devil." The audience went silent.

Temperance and attitude go together. The root word is temper. A boss once said to an employee, when they got upset over something in the workplace, "I like it when you are mad." Unknowingly, the boss did not know the employee was a Christian, but may have seen the godly living within them. Believers must pay close attention when they start their day (which should be with God first before engaging with others and society). "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life," as in Proverbs four, verse twenty-three.

Peter was one of the first followers of Jesus Christ. He was a passionate, impulsive, and flawed disciple, but also a faithful and influential leader of the early church. He was not perfect, but tended to act without thought, which led him to some tough experiences based on decisions he made while following Jesus. Peter was rebuked by Jesus in

Matthew sixteen, verse twenty-three because of his response in verse twenty-two. Another instance is in Matthew twenty-six, verses thirty-three and thirty-five, respectively. However, only to find himself refraining in Matthew twenty-six, verses sixty-nine through seventy-five.

Attitude often involves treatment. "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly, is the beginning of Proverbs eighteen, verse twenty-four. Treatment of others requires self-control. Believers must be careful. Today, it is so easy to have two faces in different places.

James two, verse three, of the New Testament explains that those who respect people who wear splendid clothing will treat them well. Meanwhile, others who do not have such attire will be in an ordinary place or a simple position with regular treatment. This activity should not be so with believers. There would be no difference with unbelievers if the people of God were to function in this manner. Believers must show good behaviour towards all.

Some people tend to bother certain individuals they know, but not all. Believers should not get into a habit of picking on someone they are not fond of or someone who may not be on their list of favorites. In fact, children of God should not show favouritism, but should treat everyone with respect. "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things," as in Romans two, verse one. Those who like getting people angry or upset are the ones who judge their victims for something.

People of God must ask the Lord to change our ways from such behaviour because He shows no partiality, as in Romans two, verse eleven. Believers should not do such activity because the devil attempts to practice these things, which is a form of torment. Monitoring someone is a form of irritation. Enticing the person to create a conflict without reason, other than hidden envy or jealousy within the irritator, which the devil will use as a device against the believer through that person.

Attitude begins under the tongue. Usually, the person who has a bad one will do as in Psalm fifty-two, verse three, "Thou lovest evil more

than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness." Their expression, tone, and actions will show it all. They prefer to do injury to others, rather than to do them good. The following verse continues, "Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue." All words that tend to devour or "swallow up" reputation and happiness.

Another form of attitude is the silent treatment. This is a new norm of showing an attitude in a non-responsive manner. Nothing happened, yet the person initiating this activity may act as though something did occur. True believers must be aware of this because they may feel they cause something horribly wrong or may know they didn't do anything hurtful towards anyone. However, it is the presence of God that may bother those who are not of God or not in a right relationship with Him, as though it has something to do with the believer, when it has to do with them.

David was a man after God's own heart. Yet Saul, who was King before David, did not have his heart toward God. His attitude made him behave as if an evil spirit possessed him. Saul's attitude was so severe toward David that he was irate in First Samuel eighteen, verse eight, "And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?" "And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul," as in verse nineteen of the same chapter.

An attitude can get so severe that it can be demonic. Every little thing will bother that person, similar to how Saul was mindful of David. Especially, a true servant of God, who is faithful and upright in heart. In verses fourteen to fifteen of First Samuel eighteen, "And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him."

The enemy knows those who have God protecting them, and with them, compared to those who say but do not. Saul's falling away from God was his own mistake, and his attitude was different when it did.

An attitude can form from what a person sees and hears. Take a look from a baby's view.

They are born into the world not knowing how much they inherited from their mother and father. Secondly, their upbringing and environment will affect their development.

Thirdly, as they grow older, knowing good and evil will affect their attitude.

An attitude can help or hurt a person's life. The kind we carry is up to us. However, we will be responsible for the results of the one we implement. The right attitude can make life amazing. The wrong one can make life devastating. A proper attitude can open many doors for the person who carries the right approach within society. On the other hand, the wrong one can shut a lot of doors and make living much more difficult than it should be.

Believers must remember that God watches our attitude. It is important because it can affect our relationship with Him.